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"MY FRIEND TOM PALMER."

MR. PARNELL'S trick seems to have pleased his supporters and disquieted his foes. We confess we cannot join in the chorus of applause with which the move has been hailed. It may be clever—possibly it is. But it looks like playing fast and loose, and we doubt whether it will do its contrivers any good. Of course, if Mr. PARNELL has at last discovered who is the forger who planted the *Times* with these letters, it is no trick, but merely the execution of a determination which he has always avowed. But the applause of his admirers is bestowed upon his latest move on the assumption that it is a mere trick, which, to use an Irish phrase, will "bedivil the Commission entirely." If so, we fear it will turn out to be a false move. Mr. PARNELL has changed front in face of the enemy, which is always a dangerous manœuvre, and his tardy adoption at the eleventh hour of a course which he had refused to entertain when it might have been very useful to his allies in this country will not be understood. The Special Commission will take its course. Its proceedings cannot be arrested merely because Mr. PARNELL has begun an action at law. Mr. PARNELL may of course refuse to answer any question which he thinks will prejudice his case in the pending trial, but that pretext will not stand him in much stead. It is not as if Mr. PARNELL was being prosecuted criminally, or was engaged in a lawsuit in which any admissions made before the Commission might criminate him, and be used to his detriment elsewhere. He has brought the action of his own free will. All that this will secure him at the best will be a plausible pretext for holding his tongue. But the strength of Mr. PARNELL'S case is that he has no motive for holding his tongue, and that he challenges the most searching inquiry. If he were to keep silent his silence would be held to justify the worst suspicions as to his guilt, and this being so we confess we cannot exactly see the enormous advantage of creating a pretext for taking up an attitude certain to be misconceived, and to harm no one so much as himself.

Turning from the threadbare subject of the *Times'* charges against Mr. PARNELL we beg respectfully to direct Lord SALISBURY'S attention to the charges which the Anglo-Indian press without distinction of party, bring against Sir JOHN GORST. We do not print all that our Indian contemporaries say on the subject of the Under-Secretary of State for India. We merely call attention to them, and suggest that they should be disproved or that Sir JOHN GORST should disappear from the Ministry. There is a curious parallel between the charges which the *Times* has brought against Mr. PARNELL and those which the *Pioneer* and the *Statesman* bring against Sir JOHN GORST. Not even the *Times* accuses Mr. PARNELL of murder, nor do our Anglo-Indian contemporaries directly accuse Sir JOHN GORST of corruption. The accusation in both cases is that the incriminated politician occupies relations of such intimacy with men notorious, in the one case for murder, and in the other for laxity of financial conscience, as to render him morally an accomplice. What No. 1 and Mr. FRANK BYRNE are said to be to Mr. PARNELL Mr. TOM PALMER is said to be to Sir JOHN GORST. Of course our Anglo-Indian contemporaries may be mistaken about Mr. PALMER. But they profess the most absolute certainty as to the character of this gentleman, and they refer to proofs of the misleading nature of his representations in the past with as much confidence as the *Times* refers to the evidence about the surgical knives and "the gallant little woman." If Mr. PALMER'S character be such as the Anglo-Indian papers say, then is it not a grave scandal if, as they also assert, Sir JOHN GORST be hand-in-glove with such a man?

The *Pioneer* and the *Statesman* belong to opposite schools of politics in India. Both are leading newspapers, quite as respectable and even more deserving of notice than the *Times*, because in a despotically governed empire like India the press has thrown upon it the responsibility of exposing scandals which in a constitutional country would be brought out in Parliament. The accusation of complicity in the corruption which flourished at Hyderabad, which is brought against Mr. PALMER, whose influence over Sir JOHN GORST is said to be so great, is not one which the India Office can afford to overlook. At a time when the Indian Government has just been prosecuting Mr. CRAWFORD because a native tried to make money out of his friendship by introducing friends, we can hardly wonder that Anglo-Indian papers should say that the intimate of "my friend TOM PALMER" is not the proper person to be the Under-Secretary for India. For Sir JOHN GORST is really the Indian Government at home. Lord CROSS is little better than a *roi fainéant*. It would do for our prestige in India if it were believed that the Home Government is practically in the hands of "My friend TOM PALMER." They seem to think so in Hyderabad, and if we are to have Special Commissions for investigating all charges brought by newspapers against public men, is not Sir JOHN GORST as fitting a subject for its exercise as Mr. PARNELL?

THE SUM OF THE SESSION.—I.

GAINS AND LOSSES IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

(BY A SPECTATOR.)

THE holidays have come at last; at last St. Stephen's is silent and deserted; the jaded M.P. is hurrying away, to shoot in the north, to sail in the south, to do anything anywhere in relief from his legislative labours. What is the net result of the session that has just ended? What effect has it had on the position of individual members? Two causes combine to make more difficult than usual the task of jotting down, in however slight an outline, those impressions of an eye-witness which have to do duty for an answer to the familiar question. In the first place, there is the autumn session looming in the distance. The holidays are less a finish than a pause. Like the proverbial lady writing her letter, Parliament has kept the most important part for the postcript. Some members may have been falling back a few paces only to take a longer leap. Then, again, if the autumn session is to mean so much for everybody, that which is past has for many members meant so little. The Local Government Bill, which good old Tories regard as the cuckoo in the nest, has not only shouldered out a brood of legislation, but has overshadowed legislators. Many people haven't had their chance. So long as Local Government for breakfast, for dinner, and for tea was the bill of fare, it was a Barmecide feast at which all but the few sat by. Those whose names were in men's mouths at the close of the previous session but who have had little opportunity since either to maintain or to mar their reputations are looking forward to the autumn. They can only be passed over at present.

A RASH PROPOSAL.

Still, there are of course some impressions which naturally form themselves in the mind, when the eyes and ears have been addressed from day to day to the proceedings in the House. To much that goes on there the old saying about lookers-on may be applied. The men in the gallery see most of the game. Here are, say, a hundred to a couple of hundred men, admirably placed for observing what goes on beneath, what this man says, how that man looks, and how the rest take it. They are supposed to be keen observers, competent recorders, and even judicious commentators upon all these things. They may be supposed to differ not more than other men in their private predilections, in their political prejudices; and they may be allowed the usual amount of impartiality, if not in expressing, at least in drawing their conclusions. Could an accurate general account be obtained of the impressions—the genuine personal impressions—of this privileged body as a whole, on the points now under discussion, what a special weight would attach to that opinion! How interesting and valuable it would be! With all the habituation of public men to having judgments passed upon them and their performances, with how eager an eye would *this* judgment be scrutinized by the objects of its criticism! With what secret joy would A. learn the favourable light in which he struck those who overlooked him most—with what concealed chagrin would B. turn away from censure or oblivion here, to console himself with the opinions of partizan colleagues or of a public which only knows him through newspaper reports! And we—the pressmen, the critics—should we not speak, for once, "with authority, and not as the scribes"? Even the unfortunate quilldriver, whom long necessity has forced to sound the cut-and-dry opinions of a party newspaper as his own—would he not rejoice this once to forget that he was a hack, to remember that he was a man; to tear off the spectacles disabling his vision, and speak out for once without the reservations of his position, with all its unique qualifications to judge?

You, innocent reader, if these sentences have succeeded in engaging your sympathy for the idea, might suppose that he would. Alas! not so. The experiment has been tried. Hear the melancholy record of its

failure—a failure which has deprived the public of so interesting a piece of political information.

THE PRESS AND THE PLEBISCITE.

The other evening, the press men in the gallery found themselves face to face with an explanatory notice, in which the idea here set forth was commended to their approval. Hard by was the means for carrying it out. In an accessible place were deposited a number of tabulated voting papers, at the service of whoever cared to fill one in. The most eloquent member, the best debater, the men who had gained and lost most in the Session, the most and the least audible speaker, the best and the worst parliamentary manners, the champion wit, and the champion bore, sincerity and humility of bearing, with the converse of each, the rising stars of either party, the man who would least be missed all round—even the handsomest man, though the opposite of this was considerately excluded: on all these points it was proposed to take a plébiscite of the press on the House.

The news spread like wildfire. Interest kindled into excitement, excitement blazed into tumult. The scene in the chambers and corridors devoted to the press had never been paralleled. It was a unique sensation. In half an hour there was none who had not heard of the peccant circular—few who had not a copy in their hands. They had responded to the invitation to record their suffrages? Not a bit. Everywhere groups were canvassing the documents which they had seized; but it was with no intention of fulfilling their conditions. The minority who took so commonplace and quiet a view were overborne in the general wave of indignation. Rightly looked at, it was an extraordinary tribute to the hold which anonymous journalism has obtained over the minds of those engaged in it—to the dominance of the idea that an opinion not worth having in manuscript becomes endowed by the compositor's art with some magic value. It is true that no names of voters were to be published. Still, the opinions were to be personal and genuine. They were to be those of the man, not of the paper. In the same breath it was denied that the slightest worth would attach to these opinions, and declared that the most portentous results would follow them. Men in the daily habit of passing the most damning judgments on this or that politician—judgments which the next day would see bruited through the country—trembled at the prospect, denied their willingness, and even their competence, to form such judgments at all. A. might not hesitate to provide material for the most sweeping accusations of murder against a score of members: he could not face the responsibility of charging one of them with stupidity. B. turned away from the temptation to brand a debater as inaudible, and fell to work again on that stinging article in which the lying knavery of the leading statesmen of one of the great parties was ruthlessly exposed. To the pious opinion of the *Daily Dagger* that Mr. Gladstone is the greatest humbug in the world, C. must subscribe and minister; but to express the results of his own observation of that statesman's conduct in Parliament—that was an injustice to which he could not stoop. Nay, more—tremendous consequences were foretold. If the press were not excluded forthwith from the House, at least it would be boycotted by the members. Every one seemed to feel that the particular M.P.'s with whom he happened to be on intimate terms would be the very men who would get large majorities for all the most uncomplimentary nominations. The idea was, at the same time, beneath contempt, and fraught with the gravest apprehensions. It was a worthless idea—and what on earth did the inventor mean by hitting on it, confound him! It was a good idea—and how unfair that one person, who happened to think of it, should reap the advantages of doing so!

> And while they said the thing was good,
> They swore the man was mad.

In his anxiety lest any act of discourtesy should be done, one enthusiast filched away the residue of the unhappy circulars and tore them into shreds. In a word, there was a storm of protest, a tornado of indignation. An emotion calling itself "silent contempt" was formulated into a hundred angry phrases. The debate in the House was at a discount that night. The Fourth Estate was paralyzed. "Our London correspondents" put paragraphs into their letters to the provinces. The subject became a telegraphic "item." An evening paper, which seems to find that the topic most welcome to its readers is the doings of a contemporary presumably more interesting than itself, spied an opportunity for indirect attack, and devoted to the subject nearly the whole of its parliamentary sketch. Finally, the idea having been diligently scotched, what was to be done with the originator? Some ardent spirits were for a summary appeal to the Serjeant-at-Arms, presumably as a step to flinging the rash offender into the Clock Tower. He, poor wretch, baffled, bewildered, and be-rated, probably owed his salvation from some such fate to the protecting ægis of those in whom not even seniority and experience could avail to crush the motives of generosity and good sense. He fled, and is believed to have found refuge in some foreign country, where he is engaged upon a treatise on "Anonymous Journalism from a New Point of View."

GAINS AND LOSSES.—1. MR. BRADLAUGH.

In default, then, of an authoritative general opinion on the personal losses and gains of the session, the following impressions may be briefly sketched as those of an observer at least willing to be fair. The unique character of the session, which has been pointed out above, makes it more advisable than usual not to condescend too much upon particulars; but it may be said at once that, not only in point of actual achievement and impress on the proceedings of the House, but by maintaining in general estimation that prominence and power which led a writer in the *Pall Mall Gazette* to dub the preceding session "Bradlaugh's Session," the junior member for Northampton has gained at least as much as any one private member. Assisted by the new rule for forwarding private legislation, he has succeeded in carrying the Oaths Bill through its third reading; and he has done so by an arrangement which, whatever may be said of it by exacting Radicals, was carried out with the greatest tact and good management. Besides this, Mr. Bradlaugh has shown a width of sympathy and view, a grasp of matters not narrowly domestic, which prove him to be no Radical of the provincial kind; he has debated with extreme pungency and force, and has made—on the subject of Trafalgar-square for instance—some very fine speeches in his own style. To Mr. Bradlaugh, then, we give the first place. He has maintained the great reputation which he has just conquered.

2.—MR. RITCHIE AND MR. BALFOUR.

Mr. Ritchie, safely alighted from the parachute at last, may fairly claim the second place. He should have had the first, but that his has been partly a *succès d'occasion*. Still, it has made the Session "Ritchie's Session." His tact and other qualities in piloting the great bill through the House have won the highest compliment from all quarters. The emasculation of the bill can scarcely be laid at his door. Mr. Long, too (not to be confounded, of course, with the un-ministerial Mr. Long who acts as Colonel Hughes-Hallett's "Tone-imparting Committee"), has shown a knowledge of the details of his subject which entitles him to mention in this connection. Mr. Balfour, like Mr. Bradlaugh, may be said to have maintained, on the whole, the reputation he had made in the last Session. Liberals may find fault with a supercilious manner towards the Irish members which does not better with time, and marvel at the thoroughgoing way in which, through truth and untruth on their part, he backs his servants in Ireland. But Unionists everywhere have grasped the fact that these things are all part of the Coercion business; they do not regret them; and among Unionists Mr. Balfour remains the most popular man on the Treasury bench. In particular he has shown an unshakeable firmness on certain points on which he was hard-pressed, which even opponents may frankly admire.

3.—THE TREASURY BENCH.

Of Sir M. Hicks-Beach it need only be said that his return to the front bench is regarded with general satisfaction. He is still one of the most respected men in the House. Mr. Stanhope, placed in a very difficult position, has at least not lost so much as Lord George Hamilton. It is difficult now to imagine that the latter was once a rising hope—a bright young star of the Conservative party. Of the lawyers on this bench, the Solicitor-General for Scotland has gained most. It seems curious to put him up so much on Irish subjects; but he has made some smart speeches. His colleague for Ireland has done, of course, poorly enough. But no doubt it is hard to get the ablest men at the Irish bar for this post. The Solicitor-General has not quite, as Mr. T. W. Russell said he had, buried his political reputation with the compensation clauses. Of the Attorney-General it is hard to know what to say. The House seemed to have got into a way of neglecting his advice, but the latter part of the session helped him by placing him in a position of utmost attack from his enemies and of utmost support from his own side. Mr. Matthews is unquestionably the minister who has lost most. He is regarded as a weak point. It is true that he "scored" with his own party over the Trafalgar-square business. But since then he has been Mr. Marionette Matthews more than ever. Twice over the Commission Bill he turned a sudden somersault, for which his colleagues had to suffer. Mr. Matthews continues to lose ground. Those who dwell on Mr. Goschen's financial wiliness will, of course, say that he, if any one, has gained by his conversion success. But he has fallen upon very evil days in debate. He is, as a hard-hitting, smart speaker, not a shadow of his former self. His one resource is to get angry, and it is not a good one. No doubt this means that it is more blessed to attack than to defend; but in Mr. Goschen the falling off has been deplorable indeed. Mr. Smith's success as Leader of the House has proved that three qualities only are required for that office. The leader must be obviously well-meaning and worthy; he must be too unimaginative to be suspected of deception, and he must know how to hold his tongue. It is the first quality that has saved Mr. Smith this session. He has made, with the best intentions, speeches at which his own followers sighed, "Well, we did think this fellow could hold his tongue." He has shown, with the best intentions, an utter want of tact in such matters as the closure, so as even to draw rebukes from the Chair. And he has made, again with the best intentions, an effort, persistent but futile, to exchange the wisdom of the dove for that of the serpent. Mr. Smith has taken to shuffling, and has been found out. "Certainly, sir!" and the Walter interview were conspicuous instances, but they did not stand alone. Still, through all this, those "good intentions" pulled Mr. Smith through; he will come up again smiling; and Mr. Smith's smile is no laughing matter. The Lord Advocate has smiled too, and has made jokes. He is a merry man, but his merriment has made him fall foul, not only of the Irish members, who don't concern him, but of the Scotch, who do. One name must be added before we pass on from the Treasury Bench. It is that of Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett. Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett has gained—for he has been kept quiet.

(To be concluded.)

ONE LESSON OF THE NAVAL MANŒUVRES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

WHILE people are occupied with discussing the ransom of Liverpool, or the possibility of seeing an enemy's sailors landed at London Bridge, there is danger lest the real lesson of the naval manœuvres should be missed by the public. It is quite true that in the present condition of the navies of Europe England has not the predominance which she ought to have at sea. But this is a point upon which many of us had already made up our minds, and the Manœuvres were not needed in order to prove it. What, then, is the lesson that they have taught?

There has been lately a good deal of controversy among sailors, joined in by general students of war, as to the direction which should be given to the efforts of the British navy should we ever find ourselves at war with a European naval Power second only to ourselves on the sea. One party, clinging to the traditions of Nelson's time (just as the Prussian army clung to those of Frederick after the development of the French lighter method had passed them by, with Jena for the result), have asserted that the duty of the British fleet would still be to blockade the enemy in his ports, and, as the idea has been expressed, with much applause, "make the creeks and harbours of the enemy our first line of defence." The other party has declared with equal certainty and vigour that no naval predominance ever likely to be permitted in peace would enable the British fleet to blockade the ports of an enemy in such a way as to prevent cruisers and even fleets from breaking out to destroy the commerce of the country, bombard our coast towns, and, under favourable circumstances, land an invading army on our shores. They say that the difficulty of coaling for a blockading fleet which must always be under steam, harassed as it will now be by torpedo-boats, will be very serious in prolonged operations; while the blockaded squadrons, being in port, will have no difficulty in keeping their ships always fully coaled. They say that the torpedo boats of the blockaders will suffer in storms, while those of the blockaded need never stir out unless the weather is fairly good; the hardships of prolonged residence in a torpedo boat at sea must also be reckoned with for the men of the blockaders' fleet. They say, further, that the absolute independence of winds and waves possessed by steam-ships will enable the blockaded squadron to choose their own time and direction of escape, while the escape being once made there will be no indication for the blockaders where the enemy's squadron has gone. These conditions, taken together, form a body of developments every one of which is in favour of the escape of the blockaded. The blockaded squadron escaping can either harry the coasts of the blockader and destroy his commerce, or, rushing swiftly off to another blockaded port, with which it was connected by the telegraph, and combining operations with its colleagues there, overwhelm the blockaders at that point. The contention of this party is that all modern developments—steam, torpedo-boats, and the telegraph—are against the power of blockade, and the result is that no self-respecting nation can entrust the safety of its shores to fleets alone, no matter how powerful they may be, but must be prepared to repel attacks which will certainly be made. The great trading ports, they say, ought to be able to defend themselves, and the land forces should be so organized and prepared as to defeat an invading army even if landed. Were this the case, no nation would dream of invading us by sea, and our fleets would be freed from the perpetual obligation to hang about the home coasts and harbours instead of taking the initiative against an enemy.

It is the solution of this controversy which is the main lesson of the present manœuvres. To state the two arguments in the light of what has happened in the course of the last few days is to answer them. Two so-called British squadrons, under Admirals Baird and Rowley, have blockaded two so-called enemy's squadrons under Admirals Tryon and Fitzroy in the south and the north of Ireland. The *Standard* correspondent at the beginning of the manœuvres, mentioned a suspicion then developing itself, that the operations had been set on foot at the Admiralty, not so much with a view to educating the naval officers in the higher branches of their profession as to gratify the taxpayer by proving to him that a British fleet could in the event of war with a foreign Power so effectually blockade his ports as to prevent any cruisers escaping to prey upon the country's commerce, and in another place the rules under which the manœuvres are carried on are described as having been framed at Whitehall apparently to make sure that the blockade cannot fail. Yet what has been the result? The fleets, of which the blockading forces were duly stronger than the blockaded, had not been more than a few days in each other's presence than the opinion became general, and was freely expressed on both sides, that nothing but the very clear weather and bright moonlight nights prevented the blockaded ships from escaping. Their arrangements for doing so on the first suitable occasion were comfortably concerted by telegraph, of which they were of course in full possession. The ships of Admiral Tryon made a ridiculously easy escape in the south. In the north, where Admiral Rowley had already declared that he would be soon unable to maintain the blockade, the ships of Admiral Fitzroy also escaped at the appointed time. The place of rendezvous for the blockaded fleets had been appointed. They met as they had agreed to do, and while blockaders, in comparative ignorance of each other's movements, were obliged to join forces, for fear of being singly overpowered, the cruisers and ironclads, which were to have been so closely imprisoned as not even to impede our ordinary commerce, were engaged in bombarding our coast towns, taking Liverpool, and requisitioning as many millions as they pleased from defenceless shipowners and merchants. Within a fortnight of the commencement of operations the squadrons representing the British fleet found themselves obliged not only to raise the blockade but to abandon all hope of defending our coasts and commerce and to sail for the mouth of the Thames, which, in the absence of any land defences, it is necessary for them to defend, although while so rich a prey is elsewhere open to the enemy there is neither necessity nor probability that it will be attacked.

A challenge was made by Admiral Colomb the other day at the United Service Institution that the exponents of the newer views should state how they supposed an enemy could ever find open to him, even for a time, the command of the narrow seas and the power of invasion. That question has now been answered in a very practical way. All of our western and eastern coasts and harbours lie open to the insults and incursions of the supposed enemy, who might land an invading army almost anywhere he pleased. By basing the defence of the country on the idea of blockading the enemy, that defence may be said to have absolutely collapsed. So far as proof is possible, short of actual war, it has been proved that a great revolution has occurred in the chances of naval warfare, and that if the British Isles are to be free from danger of insult, and even invasion, they must not trust to fleets alone for their protection. Colonel Brackenbury, speaking in the discussion which followed Admiral Colomb's lecture the other day, pointed out that in the days of Nelson's greatest triumph Pitt was wise enough to see this, and the necessity for thorough organization and preparation at home is fifty times more evident now than it was in Pitt's time. One of the most important results of such readiness would be to untie the hands of the navy, and enable it to take the initiative and gain successes which must be impossible to it if it is to remain always chained to these unready shores. It is scarcely necessary to add that anything which may happen now in the manœuvres is, so far as this main question is concerned, beside the mark. One Admiral may succeed, another fail. The chances of open war go naturally against the weaker force. But the principal matter at issue has been settled in the most convincing manner, and the Admiralty and War Office had better open their eyes to the fact that this century has not been unproductive of changes in the art of warfare.

COMMENTARY ON THE APOCRYPHA.*

IT is probable that few people nowadays read the Apocrypha, as the Sixth Article puts it, "for example of life and instruction of manners," and that even orthodox Anglicans listen with more curiosity than respect to the occasional lessons that are taken from its pages. Nevertheless the managers of what is called "The Speaker's Commentary" are more than technically correct in including the Apocrypha in the scope of their undertaking. Technically correct they are, for, though the Bible Society will not have it so, these books are part of the Bible; and they are also justified by the intrinsic interest and value of the Apocryphal writings. The interest, indeed, is greater than the value. The First of Maccabees is an historical document of the first importance, as being the primary authority for the heroic age of Jewish patriotism; but the Second Book is far inferior, and the other narrative writings belong to romance rather than history. As for religion and morals, neither get any very great building up from the devotional or didactic portions of the Apocrypha. Still, they are the sole expression of Jewish thought at an important period; and Jewish thought is too large a factor in the history of the world to be neglected.

The work seems to us to have been very well done. The contributors are not bound to foregone conclusions, an obligation which cannot be wholly escaped in dealing with the canonical Scriptures, and their criticism becomes proportionately more valuable. Their competence in point of learning no one who knows their names will question. The editor makes no visible contribution, but he is entitled to the credit of an harmonious and well-proportioned whole. In the "General Introduction," Dr. Salmon has compressed into the small compass of less than forty pages much information bearing on the relation of the Apocrypha to the canon of Scripture. Sections 59-62, in which the action of the Council of Trent with regard to the Apocrypha is described, studiously moderate as they are in expression, make as formidable an indictment of Roman pretensions as could be well imagined. The action of the Anglican Church in the matter has, on the whole, been marked with good sense, though the dominant party at the Savoy Conference behaved with its usual perverseness. The foolish story of "Bel and the Dragon," which had been omitted in 1604, was actually restored, apparently for no other purpose than to spite the Dissenters.

Of the more important books, Maccabees I. and II. have been assigned to Canon Rawlinson, Wisdom to Archdeacon Farrar, and Ecclesiasticus to Dr. Edersheim. These are the most important portions of the work, and each has been adequately treated, though perhaps the soundness and thoroughness of Dr. Edersheim's criticism and exegesis, and the literary merit of Dr. Farrar's work, may be singled out for special praise. Of the minor books the Second of Esdras is, perhaps, the most interesting. It probably belongs to the latter part of the first century of our era. If so, it gives us a glimpse into a region of thought of which we know little. The author was probably a Jew who survived the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus, and he expresses with no little poetic fervour the questionings as to the divine government of the world and the purpose of human existence which such a situation might well suggest. The Rev. J. H. Lupton, already favourably known for his work on the pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite, has done justice to this curious book, as he has also to the far less interesting Esdras I. The Rev. C. J. Ball has done his best for the unsatisfactory subjects of Judith, Bel and the Dragon, and three other minor books, and Professor Fuller for the curious romance of Tobit and the non-canonical chapters of Esther. Finally, Archdeacon Gifford treats the kindred books of Baruch and the Epistle of Jeremy. As a contribution to genuine Biblical criticism, these two volumes are probably the most valuable portion of the now complete "Speaker's Commentary."

*"The Holy Bible: with a Commentary, &c. The Apocrypha." Edited by Henry Wace, D.D. Two vols. (London: John Murray.)

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

Count von Moltke's retirement from the position of Chief of the Staff of the German army does not deprive Germany of his services. He is appointed President of the National Defence Commission, and as long as he lives his voice will be the most authoritative on matters of war of all German men. Von Moltke far more than Carnot deserved to be known as the organizer of victory. His ascendency marks the advent of the scientific Mars, as distinguished from the familiar brawny god of thews and sinews. He will be known in history as the man who had so elaborated the art of war and so perfected the mechanism of the army that it was sufficient for him to telegraph, "Krieg—Mobil" from Ems in the summer of 1870 to overthrow the French Empire and to secure for Germany the headship of Europe. His career has rehabilitated the Professor as a leading factor in the government of men.

Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, righteous man, is too grave and sombre a Scot to tolerate a joke. The solemnity of the reproof which he administers to the Blue Jackets for their high jinks at Oban is amusing and edifying, for it at least induces gratitude that all men are not made so stern and grim. As to his complaint that the naval manœuvres are misleading and have been undertaken in order to excite a panic, we have only to remark that if there is any foundation for his suspicion it will be easy to guard against such a fiasco next year. Let the War Office undertake the defence of our ports with the aid of a few coast-defence ships and torpedo-boats, and let the Admiralty undertake the attack. The experiment would be interesting, and could hardly fail to be profitable.

Unless the *Daily News* correspondent at Madrid is misleading the public, the Spanish newspapers have taken a new departure in journalism. Fearing that illegitimate influence in high quarters would be brought to bear upon the judges who are to try a notorious murderer, the newspapers, with some half-dozen exceptions, have decided to be represented by counsel at the trial. If this is not merely a grandiloquent mode of saying that they are to have barristers as reporters, it announces an unexpected development of the omnipresent activity of the modern newspaper. In this country, we fear, it will be some time before our newspapers will be allowed to appear by counsel in murder trials at the Old Bailey; but possibly we might try it on before the Special Commission.

The *Times* has at last begun to publish its correspondent's account of the opening of the Central Asian Railway. As this occurred on May 27, and it is now August 14, the *Times* can hardly be congratulated upon its despatch. M. de Vogüé's admirable letters describing the trip have been appearing for weeks past in the *Journal des Débats*. The articles which the *Times* begins to publish to-day must have been at Printing House-square for a month at least. Such is British journalism in the last quarter of the nineteenth century!

Mr. Cecil Parr, writing in the *Times*, calls attention to the other side of "improvements in railway travelling." He says:—

> Put shortly, the main objection is this—the few are benefited at the expense of the many. In order that a comparatively very small number of passengers should have an extra half-hour for business, for dinner, or in bed at London or Edinburgh, multitudes all along the line travelling between small towns are condemned to lose, say in a journey of sixty or eighty miles, far more time—actually, not proportionately—than the aforesaid favoured few gain in the long journey of over three hundred miles. I believe, incredible as it may sound, that in many instances it takes a longer time now to go by rail between many comparatively unimportant towns than it took five or ten years ago.

There is much truth in this argument. Railway races are an aristocratic move, and have nothing to do with that greatest happiness of the greatest number, which is the ideal of democratic development. Still, even so, our railway system is infinitely more popular than that of countries which profess to be more democratic. Thus, in the land of "equality and fraternity" the railways are worked strictly for the unequal convenience of the rich. The service on the P.L.M., for instance, is about the most plutocratic concern in the world.

We all have our special signs by which to recognize the end of the season. "Play-boxes" on cab roofs, parties of country cousins and French tourists parading the streets, with red guide-books, setting off the dark blue serge of their costumes; empty town houses, stations crowded with happy families starting for the seaside, with mountains of luggage, among which perambulators and cages with shrieking parrots are the most conspicuous objects; deserted parks and places of amusement, and the discontinuation of "half-crown days" at the exhibitions, all tell the same tale: London is emptying, the season is over. But among all the prosaic signs of the times there is one which is full of the poetry which rests on drowsy country gardens when the midsummer sun brings out the sweet perfume of the lavender, over which the bees, with orange velvet belt, hum and tumble all the day. "The lavender girls are in the streets, a sure sign that everybody has gone out of town," say those who know, and surely here they are, standing at every street corner with baskets full of the dainty, silver-leaved plants, above which tower, just bursting their grey shells, the tiny purple blossoms which bring a waft of country sweetness to those whose fate it is to dream in sultry London of the delights of a villeggiatura while "all the world" has flown to places where, instead of hot pavements, moist sands or springy turf are to be trodden.

The House of Lords having behaved itself seemly during the rest of session, had to come up with a rush at the end. The Keble College job is not a very big affair in itself, but it shows admirably that the House of Lords is still the mischievous and impertinent anachronism that it was before. Keble College, it should be explained to the uninitiated, is a purely sectarian foundation, to which the Tests Act in force in the other Oxford colleges, does not apply. An attempt was made earlier in the session to exempt it, notwithstanding its sectarian basis, from the Mortmain Acts. The attempt was defeated in the Commons in a full house. On Saturday, however, eleven peers slipped the defeated clause in, and it is now the law of the land. What a parody of popular government, that is; and how proud we ought to feel of the "glorious" Constitution which enables the will of the elected House to be overruled by eleven elderly gentlemen who have done themselves the honour to be born their fathers' children!

But what is quite as bad as the action of the House of Lords is the complicity of the Government therein. Mr. Smith and Sir E. Clarke declared yesterday that Ministers had nothing whatever to do with the objectionable amendment, which they were reluctantly compelled to accept in order not to lose the bill altogether. But this statement, as Mr. Asquith points out, hardly tallies with the fact that of the eleven peers who constituted the majority, no less than four were Cabinet Ministers. When Old Morality and the Old Bailey put their heads together, they certainly produce what Sir Stafford Northcote used to call "a thumper."

A clever French lady has put a "poser" to the musical editor of the *Revue Internationale* by asking him to enlighten her on the question as to what music really is. M. Comettant, evidently somewhat taken aback, but very anxious to give a satisfactory answer, has gone to philosophers and musicians ancient and modern and put their answers at the lady's disposal, but the poets and sages are no more agreed on this subject than they were and are on Pilate's pathetic question, "What is truth?" or on that which has almost as frequently been asked "What is time?" Plato, with godlike calm, says "the whole universe is music, for everything in it is order and harmony." To Victor Hugo, it is nothing but a masque which disfigures good and does not hide bad poetry. Foller holds that music is the poetry of sounds, as poetry is the music of words. According to Wagner's theory it is the art of singing words, and a speaking in sounds which express that which is otherwise inexpressible. These are a few of the more interesting answers which fill five pages of the *Revue*, but among which we are surprised at looking in vain for Schopenhauer's definition, that "music is arithmetic come to life."

The Irish landlords are shrewd and bold. They are just now engaged in the game of making believe that they have established an understanding with the Government, or are in a position to command their own terms. The Government, it is said, has made a bargain with them for next session, and the word is sent round to the meetings the landowners are holding in various parts that there is to be some legislation on the tithe question, and that the rate of interest upon Board of Works loans is to be lowered wherever rents have been reduced of late. Mr. Bagwell seems to take the lead in promulgating the reassuring gospel that very speedily the interests of Irish landlords will be "better looked after." He used these words at a Tipperary meeting. How the Orangemen feel the *Belfast News Letter* shall say. It declares that there is much to be said "in favour of the landlord's claim to compensation for loss of property and social position," and it is delighted to hear—what will be news for Radical Unionists—"that the Government intend to deal with the whole subject." This is simply the language of self-deceiving vanity. Mr. Balfour is a clever man to have persuaded the Irish landlords that they are to be compensated for "loss of property and social position." But he will have to be ten times a cleverer man than this persuasion would imply if he is to carry the House of Commons and the country with him. The "touch"—*pace* Mr. Goschen—that the House most

understands is that it must "not" touch Imperial money to "compensate" landlords who have for years been receiving from 40 to 60 per cent. more rent than their tenants ought to have paid.

The Paris Municipal Council, whatever extravagances it may sometimes commit, is certainly one of the most practical bodies in the world. Here in London we are still only "inquiring" into the notorious evils of sweating, and the Home Secretary stated yesterday in Parliament that nothing except "inquiry" and "consideration" and "reports" must be expected. Meanwhile in Paris the Municipal Council has decided to act instead of talk, and has resolved that "workmen engaged for works for the town must be in the direct employment of the concessionaires or contractors, without any intermediary or middle-man." Sweating in France applies especially, says the writer of an interesting letter on the subject in to-day's *Times*, to the building trades; and hence the abolition of it by the Paris Municipal Council is a very important measure.

The following figures, compiled from information given in the same letter, shows the difference in prices paid for a few specimen articles according as they are, or are not, sweated:—

	Non-sweated.	Sweated.
Frock-coat	24*s.*	7*s.* 3*d.*
Boot-making, per day	6*s.*	3*s.* 10*d.*
Furniture-making, per hour	8*d.*	5*d.*

The difference in the tailoring trade is, it will be seen, the greatest; and the cause of the evil is the same in Paris as in London: "the Parisian journeyman tailors complain bitterly against the importation of foreign labour."

THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF A SOCIETY CLOWN.

OUR readers may possibly remember an interview with the notorious Mr. Grossmith which appeared some months ago in these columns. A well-known publisher, Mr. Arrowsmith of Bristol—"Called Back" Arrowsmith—happened to read it, and at once asked Mr. Grossmith to write his recollections. An extremely diverting little book, published to-day, is the result. Who would have thought that Mr. Grossmith had it in him to write a shilling shocker? How the honorarium was handed to Mr. Grossmith there is nothing to show. Perhaps it was too heavy to "hand." Let us hope so. Concerning his "honoraria" Mr. Grossmith says:—

"I have frequently been amused at the amount of diffidence displayed by people when handing me the honorarium. Sometimes the hostess will thank me profusely, and, in shaking hands, squeeze the little envelope into my palm. Some ladies will say loudly, 'Good-bye, and thank you so much.' Then softly, 'I will write you to-morrow.' Some ladies will whisper mysteriously, 'You will hear from my husband to-morrow.' This at first sounds rather awful; but the husband's communication is pleasant, and most welcome. The *Pall Mall Gazette* published a most amusing sketch of an elderly gentleman paying me in specie in the middle of the room, and dropping the sovereigns all over the floor."

QUITE O. K.

"A gentleman wrote to me for the purpose of engaging me, and, rightly or wrongly, asked me if my sketches were quite *comme il faut*, as he had several young daughters. I was so immensely tickled by this that, also rightly or wrongly, I replied that my entertainments *were* as they should be; for I was recently married, and hoped myself to have several young daughters. He wrote thanking me for this assurance, and I was to consider myself accordingly engaged."

MR. GROSSMITH AS A REPORTER.

In his young days Mr. Grossmith was a reporter at Bow-street, days of which he gives the following account:—

"Old Bow-street is now razed to the ground, and there is not a brick left of the old place which, in my time, saw the preliminary examinations of the *Flowery Land* pirates, Müller for the murder of Mr. Briggs, Barrett and others for blowing up Clerkenwell Prison, Burke and Casey; Dr. Hessell, who was acquitted on the charge known as the Great Coram-street murder, and on whose behalf Mr. Douglas Straight (now Mr. Justice Straight, of Allahabad) made the best speech he ever made in his life, I venture to think; the female impersonation case, and the charge against the police detectives Druscovich, Palmer, Meiklejohn, Clarke, and Mr. Froggatt, the solicitor, of assisting Kurr, Benson, and others in committing the De Goncourt turf frauds. With the exception of the pirates and Müller, the *Times* reports were done chiefly by me."

REHEARSING AT THE SAVOY.

One of the most interesting chapters gives an account of the methods by which the Savoy operas are produced. The course adopted is as follows:—"The music is always taken first. The principal singers and the ladies and gentlemen of the chorus are seated in a semi-circle on the stage. A cottage piano is in the middle, and we are rehearsed as an ordinary choir would be. Sir Arthur Sullivan usually first composes the difficult choruses, especially the finale to the first act—an elaborate score. The quartets and trios arrive next, and the duets and songs last. I have sometimes only received the tunes of my songs the week before production. The song in the second act of 'Princess Ida' was re-written, and I only got the music two nights before the performance. The difficulty then was, not in learning the new tune, but in *un*learning the old one."

WHEN THE VOCAL NUMBERS ARRIVE.

"The greatest interest is evinced by us all as the new vocal numbers arrive. Sir Arthur Sullivan will arrive hurriedly, with a batch of MSS. under his arm, and announce the fact that there is something new. He takes his seat at the piano, and plays over the new number. The vocal parts are written in, but no accompaniment. Mr. François Cellier listens and watches; and how he can remember for future rehearsal, as he does, the elaborate accompaniments and symphonies, with the correct harmonies, &c., from simply hearing Sir Arthur play the pieces over a few times, is to me astonishing. Mr. Gilbert will attend all these musical rehearsals: he takes mental notes of the style of composition, time, rhythm, everything, and goes home and invents his groups and business. For every piece he has small stages constructed—exact models of the Savoy Theatre—with set scenes."

MR. GILBERT A TARTAR.

"The musical rehearsals are child's play in comparison with the stage rehearsals. Mr. Gilbert is a perfect autocrat, insisting that his words should be delivered, even to an inflection of the voice, as he dictates. He will stand on the stage beside the actor or actress, and repeat the words with appropriate action over and over again, until they are delivered as he desires them to be. In some instances, of course, he allows a little licence, but very little. He has great patience at times; and, indeed, he needs it, for occasionally one or other of the company, through inaccurate ear or other cause, will not catch the proper action or inflection. From the beginning it has been the custom, if possible, to allot some small part to a member of the chorus. The girls have nearly always benefited by the chance, and some have risen to the foremost ranks. The men are not so fortunate, I regret to say. They do not seem to be so quick. Gilbert has nearly been driven frantic (and so have the onlookers, for the matter of that) because a sentence has been repeated with a false accent."

MR. GILBERT AND THE LITTLE MIDSHIPMITE.

"I have seen Mr. Gilbert instruct a little boy in the part of the Midshipmite for an hour or so at a time, simply how to walk across the stage. The boy has been absolutely stupid even for his age; but has been selected because he happened to be smaller than the others who had come up for competition. Through constant drilling the child developed into a mechanical toy, and received the approbation of the generous public, as if he merited it instead of his tutor, when he had no more done so than the little canary who walks the tight-rope on a barrow, fires a gun, or drives a tandem drawn by a couple of sparrows. Apropos of the chorus, they are picked from hundreds who first sing before Mr. D'Oyly Carte on approval. They generally have some daily occupation or situation. Some of them sing and act so well in the groups that they have been retained from the very commencement of the operas."

BEHIND THE SCENES.

"The rules behind the scenes at the Savoy are very strict. No visitors, thank goodness, are allowed to be hanging about the stage or standing at the wings. There are separate staircases for the ladies and gentlemen. We are all a very happy family; jealous feeling and spirit are conspicuous by their absence; and the 'understudies' experience no difficulty in getting every help and support, if required, from the principals whose parts are to be played in case of absence or illness. There are no mashers waiting at the stage-door. Presents and love-letters are few and far between; in fact, during the ten years I have been on the stage I have only received one. I confess I am a little hurt by the notion; but perhaps it is just as well. The letter referred to was not well worded, and the spelling certainly might have been better. The lady, I am sure, was quite sincere in her expressed adoration of me, and I appreciated her candid confession that she had no prejudice against my 'callin'; but the postscript was certainly disappointing. It ran thus:—

"P.S.—Next Sunday is my Sunday out."

WHAT REPARTEE!

"Any hostess who asked me to her residence in the expectation that I should gratuitously amuse her guests would find me particularly prosaic. Happily for all professional men and women, such hostesses are very rare; and, fortunately, their reputations precede them. Still, there *are* people who cannot understand why I should appear *in propriâ personâ* in a drawing-room; and a wealthy hatter of slight acquaintance, meeting me at a 'Mansion House' ball, said: 'Hulloa! Mr. Grossmith, what are *you* doing here? Are you going to give us any of your little funniments—eh?' 'No,' I replied. 'Are you going to sell any of your hats?'"

PRETTY COOL

"A young gentleman once called upon me. He explained that he was acting as a sort of ambassador for a friend of his, Mrs. ——, of Mayfair, who wished me to dine at her house. I replied that I had not the honour of the lady's acquaintance, and, though appreciating her kind invitation, did not exactly see how I could very well avail myself of it. He said that Prince Somebodyorother and La Comtesse de Soandso would be dining there, and Mrs. —— would be so pleased if I would join the party, and sing a little song after dinner. 'Oh,' I said, 'if Mrs. —— wishes to engage me professionally, that is another matter, and, if I am at liberty, I will come with much pleasure.' 'Oh,' said the ambassador, 'I fancy Mrs. —— is under the impression that if she includes you in her dinner-party it is an understood thing that you sing afterwards.' 'I am afraid I do not understand that,' I said. 'It would not pay me to do so. I only consume about ten shillings' worth of food and wine, and my terms are more than that.'"

ALSACE AND LORRAINE.

By R. M. Pankhurst, LL.D.

The interesting comment on your Special Commissioner's letters from M. de Laveleye with reference to the threatened causes of war in Europe, puts an earnest inquiry to all lovers of peace. England now holds a really international position. That position invests her with high international duties. Since the Declaration of Paris of 1856, England has, in final and irrevocable form, ranged herself with the neutral nations of the world. Then she surrendered, in the interest of neutrals, maritime belligerent rights which high authorities assert are in war her greatest and most vital agency of power, through her undoubted supremacy at sea. Those rights, which the world in arms could not wrest from her, she then freely and magnanimously gave up for the sake of peace and humanity. England's interests and true policy are year by year more bound up with a more and more settled policy of neutrality. Hence arises the really international status of England in Europe. In these circumstances there enters into the European system a clear admitted continuing cause of threatened war, and consequent chronic state of military preparation and war alarm.

The present situation in respect of Alsace and Lorraine is a standing menace to the peace of Europe. Here, then, is a call upon any great international Power to raise a voice for peace. The duty to answer that appeal is pre-eminently laid on England, in virtue of her international character, if not in the first instance by her government, at least by her citizenship, by independent collective action through her peace societies and other bodies constituted for the service of man. The line along which such action should work in the name of neutrality and peace is pointed out by history. The rights of war have been successively cut down by the steady encroachment of the rights of neutrals. The realm of peace has been enlarged, and the empire of war diminished, by the extension of the power of neutrals.

The life of modern nations came in with the Peace of Westphalia (1648). The conception of neutrality in its extension to territory is still more modern. Neutrality has, however, become an ever-increasing power in the world, and of ever greater weight in Europe. It has played a great part in history. It has mitigated the horrors of war by limiting what may be done in war, and by whom it may be done. It has lessened the area of war by excluding from its field defined districts. Neutralization has for long been an operative force in Europe. Its benefits have been enjoyed by Switzerland, Belgium, and Luxemburg. In 1815 the Powers declared and guaranteed the perpetual neutrality of Switzerland. This neutrality was declared to be in the true interest of the policy of entire Europe.

It was in order that a territory should cease to be the battle-field of Europe, that Belgium was neutralized. Accordingly, the Powers declared that Belgium should be a perpetually neutral State. During the war of 1870 this neutrality passed under the direct guarantee of the non-belligerent Powers. The neutralization of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg rests on the same basis. The transfer to Greece of the Ionian Islands preserved their then existing status of perpetual neutrality. In another form, but under the same principle, Greece may be regarded as created by neutrality. The sense of Europe of what was due to Greece for her past services to liberty and to the commonwealth of man set in motion forces which first liberated her and next put her on her career of pacific progress. Italy under the same influences now resumes her national life. She might have entered on the same path as that pursued by Greece. If only she had done so! Her joining the military system of Europe was really voluntary; necessity in that behalf was not laid upon her.

Such being the history and action of neutrality as to territory, is it not the duty of Englishmen, as members of a really international State, to plead for the neutralization of Alsace and Lorraine? This plea would fix nothing as to the internal organization or destiny of these provinces. It would simply declare that a virtual battle-field should be put under the dominion of European peace. The form of neutralization, that is a question of procedure; the neutralization itself, that is the principle. The appeal to neutralize would be made on European and human grounds. As to the relations of France and Germany, either in their origin, action, or future, no word would be said or suggested. Only under neutralization, over the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine would fly the white flag of peace. Only that and nothing more. Only between the embattled millions of France and Germany would lie an area sacred to peace. But so separated, might not honour permit these millions to be reduced? Thus separated and reduced, who shall say what victories may not ere long be won for peace?

WAGNER'S GRAVE.

The grave of Richard Wagner at Bayreuth is said to be in a shocking state of neglect. It lies in the park behind the late composer's house, "Wahnfried." A musician, who was at Bayreuth during the late performances, relates that he was seeking for the grave, when he met with two men walking slowly up and down. On inquiring where the grave was they pointed to a little gate; and on entering the enclosure he was struck dumb with sorrow and surprise at finding the marble monument half buried in weeds, and only scanty ivy growing over the grave.

At Home and Abroad.

Two Nihilists were executed on Wednesday at Jelissavetgard, in the government district of Cherson, South Russia.

According to Bucharest papers an Albanian and Macedonian Committee has been formed in the Roumanian capital under the patronage of the Russian Minister, M. Hitrovo, whose object is to revolutionize Albania.

The Berlin police have confiscated fifty thousand copies of a Socialist proclamation to the electors of the sixth Berlin constituency, referring to the approaching election to the Reichstag for that portion of Berlin.

The principal matter of interest announced yesterday in connection with the naval manœuvres was the capture of Belfast by the cruiser *Archer*, of the British fleet.

No clue has up to the present time been obtained of the perpetrator of the murder of the young woman supposed to be named Martha Turner, which occurred last week at George-yard-buildings, Whitechapel-road.

It is announced from St. Petersburg, with reference to the possible candidacy of Prince Waldemar of Denmark for the Bulgarian throne, that the Danish Royal family is entirely opposed to the Prince's acceptance of the throne, should it be offered to him.

The whole of the military plans for the conveyance of troops from Bavaria to Alsace-Lorraine will have to be worked out afresh, as the old ones have been betrayed to the French. The fact came out in the evidence given at the recent trial for treason.

Much curiosity exists in New York in respect to the English syndicate which composes the New York Breweries Company—a company designed to monopolize the American beer trade through its branches in many cities. Details are lacking, although the scheme is under way.

Saturday next, the 18th instant, is the fifty-ninth birthday of the Emperor Francis Joseph, and great preparations are being made at Ischl to celebrate the anniversary with due honour. The present is the fortieth year of his Majesty's reign, he having ascended the Throne on the 2nd of December, 1848.

The Bishop of London has instituted the Rev. Edward Doveton to the new Vicarage of St. David's, West Holloway; Rev. Charles B. Foy to the new Vicarage of St. Mary, North End, Fulham; and has licensed the Rev. Edward F. N. Smith to be minister of St. Mary's, Tottenham.

At a meeting of the Eastbourne Town Council last evening several members of the Corporation expressed themselves strongly against preaching missions on the sea front. The missions were denounced as a public nuisance, giving offence to thousands of visitors.

At the Eastbourne sessions yesterday Percy Ransom Mills, an actor, whose stage name is Percy Fleming, was charged with stealing luggage, valued at £30, from the Eastbourne railway station, and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

A meeting of the Central Liberal Council for the Sleaford Division of Lincolnshire was held at Sleaford yesterday to select a candidate to oppose Mr. Chaplin at the next election. Mr. Francis Otter was invited to stand, but deferred his answer till he had addressed a series of meetings in the constituency.

Some Catholic electors of Charente Inférieure having asked General Boulanger whether he would countenance religious persecution or would concede liberty of association, the General replied:—"I will never, whatever happens, countenance religious persecution; for, were I to do so, I should be acting against my conscience and my interest."

Apropos of the statements in the American Congress regarding the absorption by the Canadian Pacific Railway of American traffic, the Dominion statistics show that during the first year it competed for the Oriental traffic, and with imperfect steamship connections, this railway carried a trifle under one quarter of the total of 22,000 tons of tea sent to North America.

At the meeting of the Hyderabad (Deccan) Company yesterday, the result of the poll which had been taken on an amendment to the motion for the adoption of the report showed that the amendment was lost. A further poll was taken on the motion for the adoption of the report and the motion for the re-election of Mr. C. A. Winter as a director, and it was declared that both motions were carried.

Grouse-shooting commenced yesterday. The reports from the moors show that sport was, on the whole, good, the exception being certain districts in Scotland where there had been heavy rain, and where the birds were weak on the wing. On the English and Welsh moors the birds were strong. All reports concur as to the abundance of game.

The death is announced from Neustadt, near Vienna, of Prince Joseph of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, third son of Prince Louis August of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. The young Prince, who was only nineteen years of age, was studying at the Neustadt military academy. Last Tuesday he was seized with inflammation of the lungs. His death occurred last night.

An engine and three carriages of a goods train ran off the rails on the Potsdam railway on Sunday evening. The spot where the accident took place was not far from Berlin. The engine and carriages were completely wrecked, and two or three employés suffered contusions; while the whole traffic of this important line was interrupted for many hours.

At West Bromwich yesterday, John Thomas Jones, secretary to Court Winson, of the Ancient Order of Foresters, held at Handsworth, was fined £5, and ordered to refund £5 11*s.* 8*d.*, money embezzled by him, with the alternative of six weeks' imprisonment. Prisoner pleaded guilty, and said he was glad he had been found out.

At the Worship-street police-court yesterday a gentleman came before Mr. Bushby and applied on behalf of the proprietor of Hoxton House for a warrant authorizing the police to search a certain house to recover a lady patient of the asylum who had escaped. Mr. Bushby pointed out that the superintendent of the asylum, or any person authorized by that official, could enter by force any house in which an escaped lunatic was harboured.

At the Westminster police-court yesterday Mr. Charles Denny, of Blenheim Tower, near Bournemouth, and Mr. Charles Whitten, his agent, were summoned for having permitted houses in Pimlico, the property of Mr. Denny, to be used as disorderly houses. The defence was that every precaution had been taken to guard against persons of bad character becoming tenants of the premises in question. Mr. Denny was fined £20, and Mr. Whitten £10.

In the strong wind which prevailed yesterday the large marquee at the Italian Exhibition was partly blown down. Just before the commencement of the performance by the Sorrento singers the canvas heaved violently, and two rents were made in it on the windward side. The lowering apparatus would not work properly, and as a workman was on the leeward post, stamping down the ring, the pole snapped and fell, and the guys gave way. No one was injured.

DEFEAT OF ITALIAN TROOPS IN ABYSSINIA.

TREACHERY OF NATIVE ALLIES.

The Italian Minister of War has received the following telegram from the General commanding at Massowah :—

"Having learned on July 31 that Debeb was assembling at Saganeiti, on the Gura-Digsa road, nearly 120 kilometres from Arkiko, about 300 men, armed with muskets, in order to make raids in the surrounding country, the Commander-in-Chief despatched 400 Bashi-Bazouks, under a captain and four lieutenants, to surprise Debeb. Adem Aga, with 200 Bashi-Bazouks, followed to cover the rear. At Uaa the Italian captain was informed that Debeb had 470 men, in consequence of which he waited for Adem Aga, who, on the march, had enlisted 200 Assaortins. This, however, caused some delay, so that Saganeita was only reached on August 8. Debeb, who had been informed of the Italian movements, was found to have made every preparation to defend the place. Nevertheless, the Italian captain, after surrounding the village, gallantly entered it with a lieutenant and a hundred Bashi-Bazouks, and drove out the Abyssinians from a small fort which he then occupied.

"But the Assaortins, who had already been guilty of treachery in sending information to Debeb during the march of the Italian force, deserted during the fighting, and, joining the enemy, attacked the Italians. The defence of the fort thus became impossible ; the captain and the lieutenant were wounded in several places, and the Bashi-Bazouks left the position in disorder. The treachery of the Assaortins and the preponderance of force thus gained by the enemy produced a panic among the Bashi-Bazouks who were waiting outside the village. Three Italian lieutenants and a few soldiers deperately resisted the enemy's onslaught without yielding an inch of ground. It appears that all the Italian officers, with the exception perhaps of one, fell in the fighting.

"About 400 of our Bashi-Bazouks were found at Uaa. The Italian officers fought heroically. Our losses are 350 men. Many of the Bashi-Bazouks who have returned are wounded. They brought back their rifles with them. It is believed that Adem Aga was killed."

The scene of the fighting is on the northern frontier of Abyssinia, and situated about seventy-five miles nearly due south from Massowah. About midway on this line is situated the town of Vua or Uaa, on which the defeated Bashi-Bazouks fell back. The bulk of the Italian forces occupies Massowah and strong positions in the adjoining territory. The Assaortas are a tribe of natives dwelling within the territory which is understood to be under Italian rule, and from which the Abyssinians recently, since the arrival of reinforcements from Italy, retired.

THE CHARGES AGAINST AN INDIAN OFFICIAL.

"A VERY GRAVE SCANDAL."

The Government prosecution at Poonah of a distinguished Bombay official (Mr. Crauford) has, as already stated, utterly collapsed. The whole affair from beginning to end, says a Calcutta telegram to the *Times*, condemned by public opinion in India as a very grave scandal. The accused was first suspended from his high office, and subsequently arrested by the police and dragged into the dock upon a charge of corruption. Before the magistrate, the Government's representative confessed that he was completely unprepared to formulate charges or produce evidence. He then applied for an adjournment, and this terrible charge was kept hanging over the accused, a man in broken health, until, behind the back of the accused, the Government induced the magistrate to permit it to withdraw from the prosecution. A Bombay telegram states that the Government purposes to appoint a special commission to try the accused. An application was made at Poonah on behalf of the accused to set aside the *ex parte* decision of the magistrate discharging the accused. The magistrate refused to alter the decision.

A TRAIN THROWN DOWN AN EMBANKMENT.

MANY PERSONS INJURED.—MRS. LANGTRY'S HORSES KILLED.

A singular accident has occurred on the Erie Railway. A freight train dashed into the débris washed upon the line by the heavy rain. The train was thus thrown across the rails at the moment that an express passed in the opposite direction. The effect of the collision was that the express fell down the embankment. Only one person was killed—the fireman, who was caught in the wreck, so that he could not be rescued, and was burned to death. A pistol shot was heard, and it is reported that he shot himself as the flames approached. Forty persons were injured, and the horses belonging to Mrs. Langtry and Mr. Gebhard, valued at 100,000 dols., perished, including the colt which defeated Iroquois. St. Savior was rescued.

THE RESIGNATION OF COUNT VON MOLTKE.

SUCCEEDED BY A STRATEGIST OF GREAT ABILITY.

As announced in our late edition last night, the Emperor has relieved Field Marshal Count von Moltke, at his own request, of his functions as Chief of the Grand General Staff, and appointed him to the chairmanship of the Committee of National Defence, vacant by the death of the Emperor Frederick. Through the latter appointment the invaluable counsel of the great strategist, as long as he may be able to give it, continues uninterruptedly secured to the country.

Count Moltke's successor as Chief of the Staff will be Count Waldersee, hitherto Adlatus to the retiring Field Marshal. Count Waldersee is, at the same time, to be appointed Officer *à la suite* in the Thirteenth Uhlans. Before Christmas last it was rumoured that Count Waldersee was to be placed in command of an Army Corps, while his successor as Adlatus to Count Moltke, it was said, would probably be the noted cavalry general Count Häseler. This arrangement, if really contemplated, has been abandoned, doubtless owing to the successive deaths of the two Emperors. The new head of the Grand General Staff is fortunate enough (the *Standard* correspondent at Berlin says) to enjoy particular favour with the present Emperor, and is said to be a strategist of great ability.

THE BULGARIAN BRIGANDS.

The Bulgarian Government is reported to have taken energetic measures for the capture of the brigands, their names now being known. Several of their relatives have been arrested in the towns. The chief of the band is a certain Elias Kassiroff, a well-known Russian agitator in Servia. For this reason it is believed that the band has political aims. Although the prisoners were badly treated at first, they were good friends with the brigands afterwards. The chief of the band presented them with some of the articles taken from them, as keepsakes, on their release. Some of the brigands, who were captured after Herr Binder's first release a year ago, at first wished to kill him in revenge, but the chief saved his life. The brigands, though sometimes short of food, always managed to get newspapers, and they were much interested in the opening of the new railway line. They expected soon to make new captures.

"THAT DARK SPOT IN SERVIAN HISTORY."

LATEST RUMOURS ABOUT THE ROYAL SCANDAL.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* writes:—"There are rumours to the effect that the 'Servian scandal' may, after all, end by a reconciliation. Whether these rumours repose on any serious foundation is uncertain, but there can be no doubt that King Milan has found a divorce a matter of much greater difficulty than he had anticipated. The Queen, too, seems disposed to let bygones be bygones if only she is allowed to return to Belgrade.

"It would appear that the intervention of the Holy Synod of Russia was applied for. At all events, the *Russian Courier* publishes a Note saying that, inasmuch as the Cabinet of St. Petersburg regards King Milan's proceedings as contrary to the laws of the Orthodox Church, it refuses to have anything to do with the question of separation. The Note adds that: 'The Holy Synod is all the less able to wipe out that dark spot from Servian history.' In Belgrade it is said that the only persons opposed to a reconciliation between the King and Queen are those who hoped to benefit by a Regency.

"King Milan went only last week with the Servian Crown Prince to Veldes, intending to stay some time, but left again unexpectedly on Friday, and, after spending a few hours at Villach, proceeded by express to Toblach. A letter from Veldes says: 'Nothing is known here as to the cause of King Milan's sudden departure. Luncheon was ordered in the early morning for twelve o'clock. In the meantime the King received three telegrams, whereupon he gave the orders necessary for leaving immediately.'"

BOULANGER'S RECEPTION AT ST. JEAN D'ANGELY.

"GARLANDS OF CARROTS AND TUFTS OF HAY."

The Paris journals give varying accounts of the alleged firing upon General Boulanger. A member of the staff of the *Gaulois*, who witnessed the whole affair, says that M. Perrin was not molested by the Boulangists till after he had fired. M. Perrin, however, on being taken before the Public Prosecutor, was set at liberty on the ground that he acted in self defence.

The *Temps*, in an account of what occurred yesterday at St. Jean d'Angely, states that M. Boulanger and his partisans left the train at Taillebourg, and proceeded to St. Jean d'Angely in carriages. On starting from the railway station, the sympathetic manifestations given to the General by his acolytes was drowned by the hostile cries of the population. One of the persons indicated having for a moment left his group of Opportunists, was immediately surrounded, and would surely have been knocked down and ill-treated had it not been for the intervention of some of the railway officials. The Republicans, determined to defend themselves against this sort of propaganda, had assembled in a crowd at the entrance of the Faubourg Taillebourg at St. Jean d'Angely. That is the road which Napoleon took when he entered the town, and M. Boulanger was determined to make his entrance the same way. The *Temps* continues :—

> But instead of triumphal arches he could see nothing but garlands of carrots and tufts of hay hung from the windows. On his arrival a formidable burst of hissing replied to the cries of "Boulanger's paid cheap-jacks." Rarely has the General had such a reception. The clamour was absolutely deafening. From time to time the gendarmes arrested one of General Boulanger's cheap-jacks for not having contented himself with shouting and for having used his fists to show his hatred of those who had hissed. At the moment when the General's carriage was passing in front of the church, the Boulangists, exasperated by the hissing which greeted them on all sides, sought to impose silence on the Republican faction by force. Suddenly two or three pistol shots were fired, and a conflict immediately followed.

SUAKIN AND THE SOUDAN.

A party of traders from Berber is expected to arrive at Suakin shortly to buy goods, but these men have little or no produce with them for sale. It is reported from Handoub that Osman Digna is alarmed for his own safety, and that every night he leaves the camp with a few followers, for fear of assassination. There is a bazaar rumour that Lupton Pasha died at Khartoum in July last, but as no information can be obtained from the Military Intelligence Department on this point, the rumour must be received with caution.

THE SUGAR BOUNTIES CONFERENCE.

The Paris correspondent of the *Standard* writes :—With reference to the reassembling of the Sugar Bounties Conference in London on the 16th inst., it is semi-officially announced that the English Government has unofficially communicated to the Paris Cabinet certain new proposals, one of which the *Temps* believes will meet with no opposition from any one. It consists in the temporary elimination from the labours of the Conference of the study of foreign legislation on the subject. It is proposed that a Commission be appointed, composed of the representatives of all the Powers participating in the Conference, to inquire into the matter. The natural consequence of this might be that the signature of the Protocol by the Conference would be of a suspensory character. Two other questions will be the object of discussion ; they are when the date at which the Convention, if one is signed, will come into operation, and the obligation for all the Powers to adhere to that Convention.

INTERESTING ARCHÆOLOGICAL DISCOVERY.

An interesting archæological discovery has lately been made among the ruins of the ancient Greek town of Chersonese, near Sebastopol. Whilst digging among the foundations of this old town some workmen came across the workshop of an ancient Greek sculptor, in which was an oven for baking clay models, and about fifty terra-cotta figures belonging to the third century B.C. Among the antiquities brought to light the following are the most interesting :—A medallion with a mythological subject, masks of Apollo, Satyrs, Pan, and a beautiful female head.

THE CYCLIST TOURNAMENT AT VIENNA.

The cyclist races that came off at Vienna yesterday afternoon were well attended, in spite of the tropical heat. There were seven in all, two of which deserve special notice. One was the first bicycle race, won by Herr August Lehr, of Frankfort ; distance, 1,609 metres ; time, 2 min. 41 sec. The other was for the Championship of Germany on "safety bicycles." It was won by Herr Louis Stein of Frankfort ; distance 7,500 metres ; time, 15 min. 23 4-5 sec. Adepts seem to have a high opinion of the "safety tandems" supplied by one of the German manufacturers, while there is an Austrian firm in good repute for both bicycles and tricycles. On the whole, however, English-made machines are apparently preferred.

FOURTH EDITION.

SIR JOHN GORST AND THE DECCAN SCANDAL.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY AND MR. TOM PALMER.

"AN AFFRONT TO INDIA."

There seems to be considerable dissatisfaction in India at the course taken by the Deccan Committee. The *Pioneer* and the *Statesman* are two papers which on almost every subject under the sun are diametrically opposed to each other; but they both agree in condemning the limitation of the scope of the inquiry of the Deccan Committee and in asserting that but for that limitation considerable light would have been thrown on Sir John Gorst's connection with Hyderabad. The *Pioneer* of July 22 says:—

The field of investigation of the Deccan Mining Committee has been somewhat narrowed by the party obligations of some of its most influential members to do as little damage as possible to the Government in settling the terms of its report. But the apparent escape of Sir John Gorst from the pillory that had been prepared for him must be regretted, even by those who have no natural taste for throwing dirt. We regard the possession of such a post as Under-Secretary of State by an official of this stamp as an affront to India. The particulars of Sir John Gorst's expedition to Hyderabad, as professional adviser to the Peshkar, in a case in which his extravagantly paid professional services could not be of the slightest use to his clients, are notorious. Equally notorious is the name of Mr. Tom Palmer.

Our latest private letters from home discuss in scornful terms the open alliance between her Majesty's Under-Secretary of State for India and Mr. Palmer. We hear first of Mr. Palmer calling upon the Hyderabad delegate, now in England, and the Nawab refusing to see him. But there is a reception at the Foreign Office, when Sir John, meeting the Nawab in the crowd, asks him if he has seen "his friend Tom Palmer." Need it be added that the barrier which the discreet representative of the Hyderabad State had judiciously raised was at once removed? Later on, and through Mr. Palmer's amiable intervention, Sir John calls upon another Hyderabad official, of whom he had previously expressed himself unfavourably. And as the scene for the moment closes, we are told of a little dinner given by Mr. Palmer, at which Sir John Gorst and the Hyderabad delegate are the guests.

The *Statesman and Friend of India* says:—We agree fully with our contemporary that the continuance of Sir John Gorst at the India Office, after his narrow "escape from the pillory that was prepared for him" is "an affront to India." The public should certainly read carefully the *Pioneer's* account of the influence that has been brought to bear upon the Nizam's envoys. It corresponds closely with our own information. The Conservative party as a body are but too likely to frustrate all inquiry into Sir John Gorst's communications with these gentlemen; but the fact should be impressed upon the Home public, in every overland issue which the Indian papers send to Europe. Sir John Gorst and Mr. Palmer were the very last men in London by whom the envoy should have allowed himself to be influenced; but great fear, we understand, prevails at Hyderabad that this has been the case. Some of our readers may remember that it was at the recommendation of Mr. Palmer that Sir John Gorst was engaged by the old Peshkar to come to India in 1883, for a fee of Rs. 75,000.

"Thomas Palmer has a very curious history, the facts of which have never yet, we believe, been told. He is a Eurasian barrister in advanced life, and at the time of which we write was the old Peshkar's unofficial adviser and bosom friend. The immense fee that was paid by him to Sir John Gorst was entered by the Peshkar in the treasury accounts as money that was required for large purchases made by the young Nizam in Bombay. The Prince declared the statement to be altogether false, as he had made no purchases whatever there, and wanted to make none. When pressed for further explanation, the Peshkar declared that the money had been paid to Sir John Gorst for advice in connection with his Highness's approaching accession"!

"Sir John Gorst is now Under-Secretary for India, and it is stated in Hyderabad that upon the arrival of the Nizam's representatives in London, Sir John Gorst opened a correspondence with them, through his old friend and ally, Tom Palmer. Sir John Gorst himself is hardly the proper man to be Under-Secretary for India. With the India Office already compromised through General Strachey, we have the Under-Secretary himself mixed up in this very unpleasant way with the Nizam's affairs, and we certainly can express no surprise at the fear entertained by the Nizam's Council that the investigation will end in a fiasco."

PROGRESS AT THE POLICE COURTS.

In consequence of the report of Mr. Justice Wills' committee on the question of accommodation in the police cells, it has been arranged at Bow-street police-court that all the charges against women will be disposed of before any other cases are taken. This course has been adopted under instructions from the Home Office, and takes effect from to-day. The female defendants will also be the first to be removed by the police vans. The system which has been adopted at the chief court will, no doubt, be followed by the other metropolitan police-courts.

We congratulate Mr. Matthews on this instalment of reform. *Place aux dames*, let "ladies go first" everywhere, even into the dock. We hope that the rule will be made universal. But this is only a very small step forward. What is wanted is (1) Police matrons in every police station, and (2) Decent accommodation in the cells, with conveniences apart from those used by the men. Such at least is the recommendation of Mr. Justice Wills's Committee, and while thanking Mr. Matthews for the step he has taken, we would remind him that it is but a little one, and must be promptly followed up by the substantial reforms demanded by the Committee.

THE NEW CHURCH CONFERENCE.

The eighty-first session of the New Church Conference opened at Accrington this morning, when the new president, the Rev. R. Storry, the senior minister in the denomination, reviewed the progress of the denomination. The statistical reports show an increase both in the number of societies and Sunday scholars.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

BOATING ACCIDENT ON THE LAKE OF GENEVA.

THREE YOUNG GIRLS DROWNED.

GENEVA, August 14.—A terrible boating accident has occurred on the Lake of Geneva. Five young people took a boat with the intention of proceeding to Clarens, and on their way there, while endeavouring to steer clear of a steamer were precipitated into the water. Three young girls were drowned.

DISTURBANCES AMONG THE UNEMPLOYED AT CALAIS.

THE MILITARY CALLED OUT.

CALAIS, August 14.—Considerable agitation prevails among the unemployed workmen here. A large number of them yesterday, wishing to prevent the men employed in the port continuing work, forced their way into the builders' yards, seized the tools, and hoisted the red flag. The military were called out and the rioters were dispersed, several arrests being made. Troops are guarding the workshops in the harbour.

GERMAN PURCHASES OF RUSSIAN BONDS.

ST. PETERSBURG, August 14.—It is stated in financial circles here that a leading banking house in Berlin has bought Russian funds to the amount of 50 million roubles, including the Gold Rente remaining in the Russian Treasury, the sale of which was unsuccessfully negotiated for in Paris last year.

MR. PARNELL'S ACTION AGAINST THE "TIMES."

As we stated in our later editions yesterday, closely following the arrestments, the necessary summons has been served on Mr. John Walter, proprietor, and Mr. George Edward Wright, printer and publisher of the *Times*, by Mr. Parnell. The plaintiff concludes for £50,000 damages, and the trial will probably take place in the Court of Session, Edinburgh, in October, before Lord Kinnear and a jury.

The *Times* says:—"While we are prepared to make good our defence before any tribunal whatever, we certainly do not consider it any part of our duty to facilitate proceedings designed to oust the Commissioners from their statutory jurisdiction, or to hamper and delay inquiries which Parliament intended to make most searching, thorough, and complete. We do not, however, believe that the paltry artifices and surprises which the Parnellite organs, reproducing the crafty and litigious instincts of the Irish peasant, are chuckling over with irrepressible delight, will impede the steady progress of an investigation which, come what may, will lay bare to the sight of the people of England and Scotland and bring home to their consciences facts too long hidden, denied, or covered over with delusive rhetoric. Whatever action may be taken by Mr. Parnell or any of his party, after months and months of waiting, now that they see at last that it is impossible to escape going into the witness-box, the Commissioners will, we assume, as a matter of course, set to work upon the business which Parliament has entrusted to them. There is every reason to believe that the Commissioners will be well advanced with their inquiry before Mr. Parnell's case can possibly be brought to a hearing before the Court of Session."

THE HOLBORN TOWN HALL REFUSED TO MESSRS. O'BRIEN AND SEXTON.

The Holborn Board of Works distinguished itself last night. An application was made by Messrs. Murphy and Clancy for the use of the Town Hall, Holborn, for the delivery of a lecture by Mr. William O'Brien, M.P., for the furtherance of the Thomas Walshe testimonial fund. The letter stated that the chair would be taken by Mr. Thomas Sexton, M.P. (the Lord Mayor of Dublin), and the subject of the lecture, it was intimated, would be "Current Topics, and the Advantages to be gained by a Union of the English and Irish Democracies." The reading of the letter was interrupted by cries of "Oh," and laughter. Mr. Caulcutt moved that the application be refused. The magistrates, he said, had threatened them with the loss of their licence on account of these meetings, and when political meetings were held in the hall the people of the neighbourhood were in constant dread. Mr. E. M. Sherrard seconded the motion for the refusal of the hall. He hoped that if the hall were granted the members of the board would come and see that things were properly managed, but he at least would be sorry to come near the place. Mr. Johnson moved that the application be granted. In seconding this motion, Mr. McLean said that the licence had been threatened, not because of religious or political meetings, but because of the fancy balls held in the hall. The arguments they had heard, he said, were used when Mr. Bradlaugh asked for a loan of the hall to lecture in. Well, he came to the meeting and saw four detectives on duty. He asked them if they had any report to make against the political meeting, and they answered "No," but they would have a report to make against the fancy ball that was held in one of the rooms, where some members of the board were dancing. (Laughter.) After some discussion, it was decided not to grant the use of the hall.

ENGLISH PILGRIMS TO THE SHRINE OF ST. JAMES OF CAMPOSTELLA.

At a luncheon in connection with the consecration yesterday of the Church of St. Hilda, Whitby, by the Archbishop of York, the following telegram to his Grace was read from Sir George Elliot, M.P., who laid the corner stone of the new church, to which he is the principal contributor:—

I much regret that I cannot be with your grace and those around you at the deeply interesting ceremony and gathering of friends at the consecration of St. Hilda's. I need not say that my fervent good wishes and prayers are with the work which you will inaugurate. I am to-day visiting the ancient shrine of St. James of Campostella, the resort in former ages of thousands of English pilgrims. My companion, Sir John Pender, our host, the Dean of Westminster, Sir Evelyn Wood, and other friends with us join in hearty and respectful greetings to your Grace and all engaged in the proceedings.

ANOTHER FASTING EXPERIMENT.

Succi, the notorious Italian faster and traveller, is (says the Madrid correspondent of the *Liverpool Post*) about to repeat at Barcelona his feat of fasting forty days. It may be remembered that about two years ago Succi created a great sensation by his forty days' fast at Milan, and by his announcement that during his travels in Africa he had discovered plants from the juice of which he prepared a cordial that enabled him to live without food for long periods. Up to the present he has not revealed the composition of his mysterious cordial.

THE BOARD OF WORKS INQUIRY.

The inquiry of the Royal Commissioners into the alleged malpractices of the Board of Works was again resumed at the Westminster Sessions House this morning. Mr. Richardson, a member of the Board, explained the matter of the sureties of the contractor for the Embankment works.

Mr. Roche, a late member of the Board, denied that he had ever had any interest in the Lundy Granite Company, or that he had offered to support Mr. Furniss's tender for the Embankment if that gentleman would purchase his granite of the company. He merely acted in a professional capacity for them. He controverted other statements, similar in character, detailing the circumstances of each case at length.

ALARMING ACCIDENT TO AN EXCURSION STEAMER.

As the *Queen of the Bay*, with thirty-eight passengers on board, was leaving the pier-head at Cardiff Dock this morning for Bristol she grounded on the anchor of a dredger. She sustained considerable damage, and immediately commenced to fill. The *Earl of Bute*, steamer, succeeded in taking off the passengers and crew. The *Queen of the Bay* afterwards sank.

THE SHOOTING AT SHOEBURYNESS.

The competition with the 40-pounder Armstrong breech-loader gun (shot practice) commenced at a quarter to nine this morning, in brilliant weather and scarcely any wind. The full scores of yesterday show that besides the eight 48's made, there were also eight of 36, one of 27, and thirteen of 24, besides the lower scores.

ALL ENGLAND v. AUSTRALIA.

The weather at the Oval yesterday was splendid when this great match commenced; 14,750 people paid for admission, the gate receipts thus amounting to £737 10s. Including members and others, the attendance probably reached nearly 16,000. The Australians won the toss, and sent in Bannerman and M'Donnell to do battle against the flower of English cricketers on a splendid wicket. Peel disposed of M'Donnell before a run was scored, and Trott went in, to go out again, bowled by Briggs at 22. Slow cricket followed, but at last Bannerman was magnificently caught by Lohmann for 13, which he had taken an hour and twenty-three minutes to get. Then came disaster. Jarvis was clean bowled by Briggs, Woods run out by Peel, Turner clean bowled, and seven wickets were down for 50, Edwards, not out, 19, when the players went to lunch. Three of the remaining wickets fell for a total of 80, Edwards alone making a stand for 26. The score was miserably poor on such a wicket; and Briggs's analysis—five wickets for 25 runs—was magnificent. The Englishmen begun badly enough, "W. G." being caught by Edwards, off Turner, for a single, and Ulyett being caught by Blackham off the same bowler for a "duck." But then Shuter and Reed stayed the downfall, though the latter was badly missed by Ferris, with his score at 7. At 53 the fourth wicket fell, Mr. Shuter having made a good 28, and Mr. Read 18. So far the English team had not made much show, but when Abel and Barnes got together they put a fresh complexion on the game, and they were not parted until they had put on 112 runs. Abel (65) and Sugg (5) played out time.

(FROM OUR CRICKET CORRESPONDENT.)

None of the interest which showed itself in this fixture on the opening day appeared to have abated when play was resumed this morning. Very early spectators in great numbers had taken possession of the ground, and at the commencement of play an enormous mass had again collected.

The not outs—Abel (65) and Sugg (5)—resumed their innings for the English side; the Australian trundling being shared by Turner (Pavilion end) and Ferris. Abel got Turner away nicely for 4, and followed it up with a single. Sugg added 1 to his score, and then came the separation, Abel being run out through a quick return by Trott, and retired for a fine contribution of 70—191 for six. Peel followed, and opened with a single. Sugg then got Ferris to square-leg for 4; a single to Peel followed, then Sugg again got Ferris to leg for a quartet, a leg bye for 4 followed, then came a single to Peel, and again Sugg put 4 to his credit. Peel then cut Turner square for 4 bringing up 216, and Woods took the ball from Ferris, his second ball Sugg placed to the boundary for 4. Sugg put Woods away two successive balls for 4. Peel then drove Turner for 2, and repeated the performance with the next ball he received. Sugg carried his score to 31, and then a fine ball from Turner unearthed his leg stump—241 for seven. Briggs came in, but one later was bowled by Woods without adding to score—242 for eight. Lohmann followed, and drove Woods to the off boundary for 4, shortly after cutting Turner finely for a couple. Peel, who had been playing steadily, now had his middle stump clean bowled, and retired for 25—259 for nine. Wood brought up the rear. On Wood joining Lohmann, the latter made runs rapidly, scoring two 2's, a single, two 3's, and a 4. Wood then opened his account by snicking Turner for a single, and Lohmann, playing with great confidence, again cut Turner for 4, following this by driving the same bowler straight for another quartet. Wood then snicked Woods for 4. This severe punishment brought on Ferris in place of Woods; at 289, Lohmann cut Turner to the boundary for 4, and drove the same bowler straight for a like number. Ultimately England's innings closed for 317.

AUSTRALIANS.—First Innings.

M'Donnell, c Lohmann, b Peel	0
Trott, b Briggs	13
Bonnor, b Briggs	0
Bannerman, c Lohmann, b Barnes	13
Jarvis, b Briggs	5
Woods, run out	0
Turner, b Briggs	0
Blackham, b Briggs	0
Worrall, c Grace, b Barnes	8
Edwards, b Lohmann	26
Ferris, not out	13
Extras	2
Total	80

ALL ENGLAND.—First Innings.

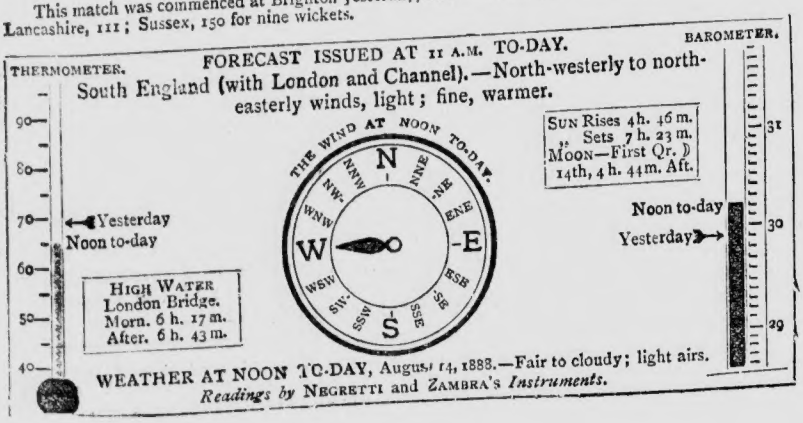
Grace, c Edwards, b Turner	1
Ulyett, c Blackham, b Turner	0
Shuter, b Turner	28
W. W. Read, b Turner	18
Barnes, c Worrall, b Turner	52
Abel, run out	70
Sugg, b Turner	31
Briggs, b Woods	0
Peel, b Woods	25
Lohmann, not out	62
Wood, c Bannerman, b Ferris	8
Extras	6
Total	317

BOWLING ANALYSIS.—Australians, First Innings.

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets
Lohmann	29·3	21	21	1
Peel	8	4	14	1
Briggs	37	24	25	5
Barnes	16	9	18	2

SUSSEX v. LANCASHIRE.

This match was commenced at Brighton yesterday, and when stumps were drawn the score was:—Lancashire, 111; Sussex, 150 for nine wickets.



THIS DAY'S MONEY MARKET.

Half-past One.

MARKETS QUIET.—MOVEMENTS IN PRICES QUITE FRACTIONAL.

Quotations in the Money Market are unchanged. There is again a fair demand for short advances, but the price obtained for them does not exceed 1½ per cent., while in many cases borrowers can get their requirements satisfied at less. The discount rate for three months' Bank paper, though still quoted 2¾ per cent., is easier at that figure, and it is nothing but the uneasiness with regard to the South American demand which is keeping the rate up. Yesterday there was scarcely any inquiry for that quarter, but it is still feared that gold may be taken from the Bank of England. A good deal of doubt is expressed on this point, however.

There is no improvement in the condition of the Stock markets so far as the amount of business transacted is concerned, while in the absence of support the tendency is rather unfavourable. The holiday season is now in full swing, and among the members who are present there is no disposition to commit themselves to any extent either for a rise or fall in prices. Consols and other Home Government funds are steady without alteration of interest, but in the Home Railway market stock is again being offered to a slight extent, with the result that values are weak, though no decline exceeding ¼ is shown. The Deferred stocks of the southern lines are favourably affected by the continued fine weather, and are the turn harder. Foreign Government Bonds are almost lifeless, except for a few purchases of Russian Bonds and a little selling after the recent improvement of Peruvians. Portuguese bonds are higher. American Railroads have not moved to any appreciable extent, but the tendency is good, and the majority of the changes are to higher quotations. Erie descriptions are in demand, also Northern Pacific Preference, the latter showing the principal improvement. Grand Trunk of Canada stocks are neglected and dull. Mexican Railway issues have not moved much on the traffic, though it shows considerably better results than operators have been accustomed to of late. The total take for the week was £17,000, an increase compared with the corresponding week last year of £3,100. Miscellaneous securities are quiet, also Mining descriptions.

The Stock Market at New York yesterday opened firm though dull. There were, however, sufficient selling orders to cause a drooping tone in the forenoon. Later, buyers became more numerous, and the early declines were more than recovered. The movements, except in specialities, were small, and the market closed dull and steady generally, at fractions above the first prices.

The list of subscriptions for shares and debentures in the New York Breweries Company (Limited) will close to-day (Tuesday).

The following are the latest changes compared with yesterday's closing:—

In Home Railways.—*Improved*: Brighton Deferred, North Western, and South Eastern Deferred ⅛. *Lower*: Hull and Barnsley and District ¼, Sheffield Deferred, North British, and North Eastern ⅛.

Among Foreign Stocks.—*Advanced*: Buenos Ayres, Cedulas I, ¼, Portuguese, Russian 1873, and Uruguay ⅛. *Declined*: Egyptian Preference, Hungarian Gold, and Italian ⅛, Peruvian 1870 ¼, the 1872 1-16, and Turkish Groups 3 and 4 1-16.

American Railroads.—*Risen*: Northern Pacific Preference ⅝, Illinois Central and Milwaukee and St. Paul ¼, Erie Second Mortgage ¼, the shares ⅛, Denver Preference ¼, Lake Shore, and New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio First Mortgage ⅛. *Fallen*: Central Pacific ⅜, New York Central, Mexican Central Bonds, and Ohio and Mississippi Ordinary ¼, Wabash Mortgage ¼, the Preference ⅛, Denver Ordinary, Louisville and Nashville and Norfolk and Western Preference ⅛ each.

As regards Canadian and Foreign Railways.—*Higher*: Mexican Ordinary and Second Preference ⅛. *Lower*: Canadian Pacific ¼, Grand Trunk First, Second, and Third Preference and Guaranteed, ⅛.

Hotchkiss and Briant and May shares shares are up ⅛, Rio Tinto and Oorigum 1-16; but De Beers shares are down ⅛.

The directors of the Furness Railway Company have declared a dividend of 2½ per cent. for the half-year ending June, compared with 2 per cent. for the corresponding half of last year.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—The market for spots is quiet but steady. Sales 7,000. Futures, after gaining 1 and 1-2 point, went dull, but are now firm at 1 to 2 points advance for near positions and one for distant.

The following are this day's 1 o'clock prices of the principal Stocks and Shares:—

BRITISH FUNDS, ETC.			Brighton (Ordinary)	139	41	London and County	84½ 5⅛xd
Consols	100⅜	⅜	Do. A	124½	5	Union of London	38½ 9½
New Consols 2¾	99¼	⅜	Chatham (Ordinary)	22½	3	London and West.	66 7
Reduced 3 p. c.	100¾	1⅛	Do. Preference	101½	¾xd	London Joint Stock	38½ 9⅛
Local Loan Stock	103¼	¾	North Western	170¼	1	Nat. Prov. of Eng.	43 4
New 2½ per. Cent.	95¼	6¼	South Western	136	7 xd	Stand. Bnk. S. Afric.	47⅛ 8½
India 3½ per Cent.	105¾	6¼	Manchester & Shef.	68	70	MINES.	
Do. 4½ p. c. Rus.	69¼	70	Do. A.	36	½	Indian Consolidated	¾ ⅜
Egyptian Guar.	102	½	Met. Consolidated	73¾	4¼xd	Mysore shares	3 1 16 3 16
Met. Bd. Wks. 5½	113	½	Do. Land Stock	70	1 xd	Ooregums	1⅛ ⅛
Do. 3 p. c. Scrip.	103⅛	4	Do. District	34¼	¾	Cape Copper	3¼ 4
Birmingham Crp. Stk.	109¼	10¼	Midland	134¼	3	Namaqua	2⅞ 3⅛
Liverpool	111	½	North British	114½	¾	Mason and Barry	9⅛ ⅝
FOREIGN STOCKS.			North Eastern	158	¼	Rio Tinto	20⅛ 1
Argentine 6 p. c.	103	5	North Stafford	110	12	Montana £1 shares	1 11 16 13 16
Do. Hard Dols	69½	¾xd	South Eastern	130	9	De Beers	26⅛ ⅜
Do. Treasury	98	9	Do. Deferred	106¼	½	Kimberley Cent.	30¼ ¾
Austrian Gold	90	2	FOREIGN RAILWAYS.			TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.	
Do. Silver	66	8	Canada Pacific	59¾	½	Anglo-American	40½ 1½
Brazilian 1875	102⅛	3½	Cen. Pacific Shares	36	¼	Do. Pref.	67½ 8½
B. Ayres 6 p. c.	102	4	Chic. Mil. and St. P.	75	¼	Direct Unit. States	9⅛ ⅜
Do. Cedulas	61¼	2¼xd	Denver & R. Grande	19¼	20¼	Eastern	12¼ ⅛
Chilian 4½ p.c. 1885	100	2	Do. Pref.	52	½	Ditto Extension	12⅞ 13⅛
Costa Rica A	88½	9½	Illinois Shares	123½	4 xd	United Telephone	13⅛ ⅜
Do. B	87½	8½	Lake Shore	99	½	Globe Teleg. Trust	8⅛ ⅛xd
Egypt. State Dom.	101½	2	Ohio & Mississippi	23¼	4¼	TRAMWAYS, ETC.	
Do. Unified	84¾	⅜	Louis. and Nash	61⅜	⅜xd	London Gen. Om.	205 10
Do. Preference	102½	¾	Mex. Cen. Bonds	69½	70	London Street	13 14
Do. Daira Sanien	79½	¾	Do. Nat "A"	61¼	2	London Tramway	14 15
French 3 p.c. Rnts	82½	3	Miss. Kan. & Texas	15¼	½	North Metropolitan	18 ½xd
Do. 4½ p.c. Rnts.	105	½	N. Y. Cen. Shares	110¼	¾	WATERWORKS.	
Greek 5 p.c. 1881	73½	4	New York Ontario	16⅞	17⅛	Chelsea Waterworks	252 7
Hung. Gold Rentes	82⅜	⅛	Erie Shares	29	½	East London	196 201
Italian	95½	¾	Do. Sec. Mort.	101	⅛	Grand Junction	123 8
Mexican Converted	39½	¾	Norfolk & West. Pre	51¾	2¼	Kent	267 72 xd
Peruvian 5 p.c. 72	13⅞	14⅛	N. Y. P. & O. 1st Mr	38¼	9	Lambeth	257 62
Do. 6 p.c.	15¼	⅜	North. Pacific Pref	59¼	½	New River, New	347 52
Portuguese	64½	¼	Pennsylvania Sh.	55¾	6	S'thwrk. & Vauxhall	161 6
Russian 1873	98⅛	⅝	Phil. and Read. Sh	26¼ ½	& ass	W. Middlesex	264 9
Spanish 4 p. c.	73 1 16	3 16	Union Pacific Shares	62¼	⅛	GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT.	
Turkish 1854	99	101	Wabash Preferred	27¼	8	Gaslight & Coke A	254 3
Group 1	24¼	¾	Do. Gen. Mort.	45½	6	Imp. Continental	205 8
Group 2	15	¼	Grand Trunk Sh.	13	¼	South Metropolitan	315 20
Groups 3 and 4	14⅝	⅜	Do. First Pref.	58⅞	9⅛	Brush Elec Lt (£4 pd)	3 ½
4½ p. c. 1871	86½	7	Do. Second Pref.	40¼	1¼	MISCELLANEOUS.	
5 p. c. Defence	96½	7	Do. Third Pref.	22⅞	3⅛	Allsopp	8⅛ ⅞xd
5 p. c. Priority	82	4	Do. Guaranteed	67	¼	Guinness and Co	317½ 22½
Uruguay Unified	72¾	3¼	Mexican Ordinary	47¼	⅝	Hotchkiss	9 ¼xd
Virginia Funded	43½	4½	Do First Pref	120⅜	⅜	Bryant and May	12⅛ ⅞xd
U.S. 4½ p.c.	107½	8½	Ob. do. 2nd Pref	79¼	80	Spratt's Patent	9½ ¾xd
BRITISH RAILWAYS.			Lombardo-Venetian	8½	⅝	P. and O. Steam	62 4
Caledonian	106	¼	Varna 3 per cent	⅞	7⅛	Royal Mail Steam	59 61
Great Eastern	68	¼xd	Nitrate Railway	25½	6	Nat. Discount Co.	11 ½
Great Northern	118½	19⅛	BANKS.			Hudson's Bay	19¼ ¾
Ditto A	101½	2½	Alliance Bank	13	½	Suez Canal	86¼ 7⅛
Great Western	144¾	5 xd	City Bank	20	1	E. & W. Ind. Dock	24 6
Hull and Barnsley	30¼	¾	Consolidated Bank	7½	8¼	London and St. Katharin	38 40
Lanc. and York.	118	19	Imperial Ottoman	10 15	16 11		

A NEW AND DELICATE SURGICAL OPERATION.

RESTORING THE BLIND TO SIGHT.

Among the matters of interest which were brought before the British Medical Association at the recent Glasgow meeting, was an account by Mr. Brudenell Carter of a method which he had devised of opening the sheath of the optic nerve behind the eye, for the relief of pressure within this sheath and within the cavity of the skull. The brain is invested by firm membranes, which secrete a certain amount of fluid, and are continued down to the eye in the form of a sheath which surrounds the optic nerve; and, whenever the pressure within the cavity of the skull is increased by the growth of a brain tumour, or even by excess of secretion from the membranes themselves, a superabundance of fluid is apt to find its way down the nerve sheath to the level of the eye, to subject the optic nerve to injurious pressure, and, in many cases, to destroy the sight. It not infrequently happens that the pressure within the brain cavity may be increased by temporary or curable causes, which nevertheless continue in action sufficiently long to produce permanent blindness, even although the patient may, in other respects, recover. In view of these conditions it was suggested by Dr. de Wecker, of Paris, sixteen or seventeen years ago, that it might be possible to open the optic nerve sheath, and thus not only to relieve the nerve from pressure and to preserve it from injury, but also, on account of the position of the eye relatively to the brain cavity, to drain the latter by gravitation, and to relieve the brain as well as the eye. Dr. de Wecker made two endeavours to accomplish this object, but he tried to feel his way to the optic nerve without the aid of sight, and to incise the sheath by means of an instrument carrying a concealed knife, capable of being projected by means of a spring. The risks of failure, and, still more, the risks of inflicting irreparable injury upon the nerve, were such that he only attempted his operation in two well-nigh hopeless cases, and only one attempt to follow his example has been recorded. Mr. Carter's attention was called to the matter last year; and he devised a method of operating by which the sheath could be exposed to view, and the object attained with certainty, under the guidance of sight at every step of the process. He read before the Medical Society of London, last year, an account of the first case in which he operated, which was successful; and he read an account of three more cases at Glasgow, in one of which the result was negative, as far as sight was concerned; while in the other two the patients were not only quickly restored to useful vision, in one instance from complete, in the other from nearly complete blindness, but were at the same time relieved or cured of other symptoms, such as headache and sickness, arising from direct pressure on the brain. In his paper at Glasgow Mr. Carter claimed for the new operation that it could be performed with certainty and without risk either to life or to any important structure.

SINGULAR AND SERIOUS ACCIDENT TO EXCURSIONISTS.

A serious accident happened yesterday on the large passenger steamer *Duke of Connaught*, which is at present engaged in taking passengers from Fleetwood to the Isle of Man. When the vessel left Fleetwood at four o'clock a gale was blowing from the west, and drenching showers fell at intervals. She had not proceeded more than a few miles when the mainmast snapped twenty feet from the deck, owing, it is said, to the pitching of the steamer. The mast fell on to the bridge with a crash, and there broke into three pieces. The deck was crowded, and the fractured mast and wreckage fell among the excursionists, injuring seriously six of them. The captain immediately turned his steamer and ran back to Fleetwood as rapidly as possible, where medical aid was promptly procured.

IN DEFENCE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS.

A crowded and enthusiastic meeting of the inhabitants of Esher, Hersham, Cobham, Walton-on-Thames, Moulsey, and other places, was held at the vestry hall, Esher, last evening, under the presidency of Mr. R. Hayden, to protest against the encroachments upon the rights and privileges of the inhabitants of the district in connection with the navigation of the River Mole between Esher and Cobham bridges and the use of a footpath from Hersham to Cobham. From the speeches of the chairman, Mr. Noton (solicitor), Mr. James Faulkner, Mr. Scott, and others, it appeared that since the time of King John the people had enjoyed an uninterrupted right of boating on the Mole between the villages of Esher and Cobham, a distance of seven miles; and office passage by the footpath from time immemorial; and that recently the Hon. H. L. Bourke, who owns some land on both sides of the river, has placed chains across in such a manner as to prevent the passage of boats up or down He has, in addition, erected a fence across the footpath, and has both chains and fence guarded night and day. Resolutions denouncing the conduct of the landowner in question aud appointing a committee to take measures to secure the removal of the obstructions and to assert the rights of the public were carried unanimously.

THE ALLEGED ABDUCTION OF AN AMERICAN HEIRESS.

Oscar Moeller was charged on remand at Bow-street yesterday, with the abduction of a young girl named Elsa Elias. Mr. Mead appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Undermeyer, of the American bar, watched the case on behalf of the friends of the young lady. Her mother, Mrs. Catherine Elias, now attended, and deposed that her daughter was sixteen years of age, and was at a boarding-school at Cassel, in Germany, where the prisoner lived. The witness lived at Wilhelmshohe. Her husband died on February 16 last, and a few hours after his death the prisoner called on her and spoke about her daughter. She was heiress to a large property on attaining her majority. He said that he loved her. She said that under the circumstances she could not give any answer, as her daughter was too young. The next day he spoke to her on the matter, and she made a similar reply. Witness afterwards proceeded to New York, and on her return in April the prisoner met her at the railway station, and renewed his protestations of love for her daughter. She treated him coldly. On the 26th of April she disappeared, and it was alleged that she stayed with the prisoner's partner. Some weeks afterwards she returned to her mother. On the 5th of July she disappeared again, and was found with the prisoner at Queenstown, under circumstances already reported. The prisoner was further remanded.

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THE PALL MALL BUDGET is sent post free to any address in the United Kingdom for 4s. 11d. per quarter.

STOPPAGE OF THE NEW LANDORE STEEL WORKS.

A THOUSAND MEN THROWN IDLE.

Landore, near Swansea, has been thrown into a state of consternation by the sudden and unexpected stoppageof the new Landore Steel Works, belonging to Messrs. Siemens and Co. (Limited). On Saturday most of the workmen in each department were, at two hours' notice, paid off, and most of the furnaces were put out on Sunday. The result is that over 1,000 men, to whom upwards of £1,300 was paid weekly, are now out of employment. The cause of the stoppage is unknown. A meeting of directors, it is said, will be held in London to discuss matters. Mr. Frederick Siemens, nephew of the late Sir W. Siemens, visited the works last week, and it is believed that this visit has been the cause of closing not only the Siemens Company's works, but the old works also, where several hundred men have been employed by the new Mannesman Tube Company (Limited). At present things appear in a state of uncertainty, but it is reported that both works are likely to remain idle for about six months.

ASSAULT ON LADY MOLESWORTH.

Lady Molesworth at Marlborough-street police-court yesterday, charged Kate Reardon with assaulting her. Reardon was also charged with being drunk and disorderly. Lady Molesworth, of Berkeley-square, said that as she was walking in Piccadilly on Saturday afternoon the prisoner came up to her, apparently in a drunken state, and asked for money. She declined to relieve her, when she became abusive and persistent in her demand, and in order to avoid the woman, she entered a shop; but the prisoner followed and struck her. Mr. J. W. Rich, jeweller, of 71, Piccadilly, said that on her ladyship entering the shop she complained of having been annoyed by a drunken woman in the street. She wished to take refuge from her. No sooner had she said that than the woman rushed into the shop, and gave her ladyship a blow on the head. The woman was very excited, and ran out of the shop immediately. When arrested by a constable the prisoner threw herself down, and it was with considerable difficulty she was got to the station. She was now committed to gaol for two months, with hard labour.

DOUBLE MURDER ON THE HIGH SEAS.

Patrick Kelly, a seaman, was charged on remand at Bow-street yesterday with the murder of John Chapman and John Perry, on board the steamship *Erin*, on the 9th of July last, during a voyage to New York. Mr. Angus Lewis appeared to prosecute on behalf of the Treasury, and called John Whittaker, a seaman, who deposed that he was on board the Erin during the voyage. Witness, the prisoner, the two murdered men, and a man named Harris were in the starboard watch on the morning of the day in question. On the previous day (July 8th), while discharging a duty Chapman made use of an offensive expression, and the prisoner asked if it applied to him. Chapman replied in the negative. Later on, another altercation ensued, and the prisoner said, "Say no more. I will fix you." Chapman replied, "I will be as good as you." The next morning at seven o'clock witness was aroused by smothered cries, and he saw the prisoner standing over Chapman's bunk. He had his left hand on Chapman's forehead. His right hand was at Chapman's left breast, and witness observed that his face was covered with blood. At that moment Parry awoke and looked towards the prisoner and Chapman, uttering at the time a terrified cry. The prisoner drew his hand from Chapman's left breast and witness saw that he had a knife in his hand. The blood spurted a distance of four feet from a wound in Chapman's side After withdrawing his hand from Chapman's breast the prisoner took two steps towards Perry, who was lying down on his back, and stabbed him over the heart. The prisoner picked up a shirt belonging to Perry and wiped the knife on it. He afterwards held it up to the light and witness identified it as the prisoner's knife. Witness went to both the men and found that they were dead. Corroborative evidence was given in support of the above facts, and Detective-Sergeant Regan, who arrested the prisoner, deposed that he said—"I am not sorry for what I have done; and if I had had the chance I would have served Whittaker the same: they were always against me." The prisoner was finally committed for trial.

MR. BLAINE.—Mr. Blaine left New York yesterday for Boston, where he attended a reception to be given in his honour. He will afterwards proceed to his home in Augusta, Maine, where a second reception is to be held to-night, a third following at Portland on Wednesday. He will actively aid in the canvass of Maine by the Republicans in preparation for the September election, and will deliver several addresses.

ACTION ABOUT A SEAGULL'S EGG.—A novel point arose at Newcastle county court yesterday, when Mr. Barclay, of Norwich, lessee of the Farne Islands, sued a Sunderland fisherman for damages for taking a seagull's egg from a nest upon his land. The only question in dispute was whether there could be any property in a wild bird's egg. The magistrate ruled that a man had a possessory right to any wild bird which was on or over his land, and the same applied to the eggs. Judgment for the plaintiff for £1 and costs.

THE LAW COURTS GARDEN.—The process of levelling and preparing the piece of waste ground situate at the western side of the Royal Courts of Justice, opposite St. Clement's Church, which it is intended to convert into an ornamental garden, was begun yesterday morning, and it is anticipated that the work will be completed in about five or six weeks' time. The funds are being found by a private gentleman, who is desirous that his name shall not be made public.

EXPLORATION IN MOROCCO.—The following message from Mr. Joseph Thomson and Mr. Harved Crichton-Browne, transmitted from Tangier, has been sent to the Royal Society, the Royal Geographical Society, and to the friends of the explorers:—"City of Morocco, July 28.—We returned to Amsmiz across mountains, safe and well, July 24; many interesting geographical and geological notes; so far successful beyond our expectations. We were prevented from going direct from Glamoa to Gundaffy by tribal revolt. We shall start on August 6 for third trip across the Atlas, further S.W. this time."

A POINT IN DOG LAW.—The question whether foxhounds are subject to the muzzling orders came before the Cheshire magistrates yesterday, when Mr. Thomas Hadfield, one of the proprietors of the Runcorn Bone Works, was summoned. Two foxhounds were permitted by him to be at liberty. The defence was that it was impossible to keep these hounds up, otherwise they would all have to be sent back to the kennel. The police, who prosecuted, contended that the hounds were not exempt from the order, and the magistrate, taking the same view, inflicted the nominal fine of 6d., and 13s. costs.

C. BRANDAUER and CO.'s Circular Pointed Pens write as smoothly as a lead pencil, and neither scratch nor spurt, the points being rounded by a new process. Seven Prize Medals awarded. Assorted sample box 6d., post free for 7 stamps from C. Brandauer and Co.'s Pen Works, Birmingham.

A VOYAGE BY BALLOON.

ANTICIPATION.—"TO VIENNA."

THE biggest balloon in the world started at twenty minutes past five yesterday afternoon "for Vienna," with as much composure as if she had been an express train, whose course was indicated in Bradshaw, instead of a huge unwieldy gas bag, at the mercy of every breeze that sweeps the heavens. At four o'clock the monster was flapping and rolling about in the arena at the Irish Exhibition, gasping like some huge fish just landed out of its native element. An army of men clung to the netting which enclosed the balloon, while a sharp-eyed gentleman, short in stature, of some fifty years, with a whitey-grey beard and whiskers, and a determined mouth, dressed in black and wearing a black wideawake, walked round and round, helping to lower the hooks which held the sandbags to the netting, and so secured the balloon. That was Mr. Simmons. The sun was pouring down on the enclosure, the sky was bright blue, flecked with white cumuli, which were flying along high above us at a great speed, the wind blowing freshly from south-south-west. The balloon still grovelled in the dust, growing bigger and bigger every minute as the stream of gas flowed into its belly through a thick canvas pipe which came up from the bowels of the earth. The air monster was timed to start at four o'clock, and when the hour struck a large crowd had gathered in the enclosure to watch the departure of the bold balloonists. Any one who happened to have an opera glass slung round his shoulders was at once accosted by the inquisitive with a deprecatory smile which was easily interpreted into, "Well, you must be a fool to risk your neck on such a hazardous enterprise, but still you are interesting on that account." I think six or seven gentlemen eventually jumped into the car, having been previously photographed in a group, which was, you may be sure, the cynosure of all eyes. There was a gentleman of mature years, with a rosy face and white hair, wearing a frock coat and a tall hat, who, I was informed, was General Brine. Next him was a tall, solemn adventurer in grey and a flannel shirt—a Dr. Colman, of Surbiton. If the original arrangements had been adhered to the Rev. Mr. Haweis would have made the trip, but he never turned up, and the *Pall Mall Gazette* was compelled at the last moment to secure the services of another representative. So the air-trippers sailed away without benefit of clergy, though they carried a doctor. I must not forget to mention that the law was represented by a Mr. Swain, so that a legal will was possible. Another member of the party was Mr. Chapman, a little dark man, with a keen pair of eyes, and an abundance of energy. Some one said that this was his twentieth ascent. He had charge of the thermometer, barometer, and a compass. At five o'clock a young Parsee, who was chatting with Lord Arthur Hill and Mr. Wood, the genial secretary of "Olympia," took it into his head to join the party and take the vacant chair of Mr. Haweis. "Can I?" he cried to Mr. Simmons. "Just room for one," replied the famous aëronaut. "What shall I take?" "A great coat, some brandy, and something to eat." And off the plucky Parsee bolted into the Exhibition, plumping down £6 for an Irish frieze, and exchanging his tall silk hat for a cap of soft cloth. In a few minutes he was back in the ring, carrying his newly-acquired purchases, a couple of ginger-beer bottles—which he told me contained brandy and soda—and an *olla podrida* in a towel, tied up at the four corners, which contained cakes, sandwiches, pork pies, and sundry toothsome cates. You may be sure that the allowance of baggage was very limited. A glance at the car would have told you that. It was a fragile-looking affair of woven wire, with nine little wooden seats running round it. The floor was of open wire, thus forming a window through which you looked into space; to each person was allotted a short length of rope, and that was all. A few minutes after five, to the music of the bands, and the cries of the spectators, this carriage for eight was dragged slowly to the mouth of the balloon and attached, under the direction of "Dux" Simmons. The sandbags were thrown in, a few lumps of rock, a bundle of paper, a bundle of rugs and overcoats, two or three little black brief bags, and some tins of water, and when I ventured under the body of the uneasy monster and peered into the car it seemed to my inexperienced eyes to be already quite full. "All aboard!" cried some one. "Passengers this way." And the gentlemen jumped in and clung to the ropes. The balloon was dragged to windward: Mr. Simmons gave the words, "One," "two," "three," and in sixty seconds the air-ship was sailing gracefully away far over our heads. So much for anticipation.

REALIZATION.—MARGATE.

The balloon (says a representative of the *Standard*) when released rose rapidly, and in three minutes had attained an altitude of 1,200 feet. Soon after starting we were directly over South Kensington Exhibition, and could see Orton's balloon in process of inflation. We hovered for a moment, hoping to see her ascend and join us; but we were borne remorselessly along, and reached the river near Charing-cross. Five minutes later we passed through a cloud, and were soon at a height of 3,000 ft., exposed to the rays of a hot sun, which expanded the gas to the fullest capacity, causing an overflow of gas that troubled one of the passengers considerably. A heavy bank of clouds lay to the right. Here we got a pretty view of the Surrey Canal through rifts in the clouds, which shut the intervening portion of the earth from our sight. We were now 5,100 ft. high, and the barking of a dog was distinctly heard. At 5,555 ft. we were enveloped in cloud, and heard the whistle of a train. At six we were nearing Tilbury Docks, and discerned the shipping from our height of 6,000 feet; we had travelled about twenty-five miles in forty minutes. Extending around the horizon was a dense bank of clouds, which, illuminated by the sun, presented a picture of rare beauty. Mr. Simmons, climbing into the concentrating ring, loosened the valve-cord, which had become entangled. We were now over the Docks, and Mr. Simmons, remarking that we looked like a bouquet of flowers, called attention to the P. and O. steamers looking like toy boats beneath us. The view was beautifully clear below, and, except for patches of clouds which floated lazily below us, we got a magnificent prospect of the earth lying like a shallow basin at our feet. The Medway came into sight at 6.10, and was beneath us ten minutes after. A heavy bank of clouds was rising from the east, and at 6.25, when in the bank of clouds, we saw the shadow of the balloon with a rainbow halo about it. So clear was the air that I could distinctly see the wake of the steamboat in the river 6,000 feet below. We ascended to 6,200 feet, and floated above the bank of clouds which hung over Chatham. We were now too high to discern human beings, and the Medway forts appeared to be deserted. For the first time the balloon began to rotate, and the sun, which had been until now behind us, was full ahead. We again saw the reflection of the balloon on the clouds, but this time the car was also visible, and the passengers amused themselves by making signals to our double, which were promptly answered. At 6.35 a vast extent of clouds completely shut out the earth, and our view was confined to the bright blue sky above, and the white fleecy clouds beneath. The sun was now a globe of silver, the dense clouds almost shutting him from us at the height of 6,700 ft. But the masses of vapour rolled away in five minutes, and then we got our first glimpse of the sea. To the south were green fields interspersed with patches of brown, which denoted the ripening grain. To the north-west was Faversham, while behind were Sheerness and Queenborough. Mr. Simmons inquired if it was our wish to cross the Channel, and received an affirmative reply from all but one of our little band of passengers. The crescent of the new moon shone upon us brightly. Having descended to 4,500 feet, we could see on the ground an elongated shadow of the balloon. Our altitude was only maintained by the loss of large quantities of ballast. Mr. Simmons said if any passenger would alight, he would approach within two or three feet of the earth, and drop them safely. Two of the number agreed to this, and the prospects of a Channel trip were brighter for the rest. In dropping, however, we got into a current which bore us rapidly to the north, towards the sea, rendering further descent impracticable. We were then at an altitude of but 2,150 ft. Herne Bay was now ahead. We ascended to 4,450 ft., and drifted slowly back towards the land, the balloon rotating considerably. We threw out a bag of ballast, and at 7.10 regained our altitude of 6,000 ft.; but the current of wind had greatly diminished in force, and was very variable. The Channel was now in view, and as in five minutes, at a height of 7,800 ft., we found the same perversity in the upper currents, Mr. Simmons decided to come down. The valve was opened for the first time, and we rapidly approached the earth. We came down in a field, but the grapnel failed to hold, and we rushed on, the car striking a rail fence and tearing down one of its sections. We threw out a small quantity of ballast, and rose to the topmost branches of a tree, which bent beneath our weight. By this time several persons had reached us, and we were literally hauled down, leaving our grapnel in the branches of another tree. We eventually landed in safety in a wheat field belonging to Mr. Goodson, between Westgate and Birchington, and four miles from Margate.

THE MYSTERIOUS MURDER IN MADRID.

EXTRAORDINARY PRISON REVELATIONS.

The *Daily News* correspondent at Madrid gives a deeply-interesting account of the extraordinary Varela murder, already briefly reported in these columns. "At last," the correspondent says, "the magistrates were suddenly put into possession of data that revealed facts so important and so strange that never has any crime produced such a deep and sad sensation in Spain. Indeed, not only in Madrid, but in every part of the kingdom, this really extraordinary affair has been followed with unprecedented curiosity and anxiety. The realistic horrors of this 'cause celèbre' might have served as the basis of a sensational novel, which most readers would have said was too incredible to be possible in real life. Many Spaniards and respectable organs of the Madrid press were, until the last few days, reluctant to admit that the secret of this mysterious crime could be discovered, as it has been, behind the walls of the prison of the capital. This penitentiary was supposed to be the best administered and the most constantly watched of all, and was inspected by the Government and the Minister of Justice."

A MIDNIGHT DISCOVERY.

After midnight on July 1 the police magistrate entered the second-floor of the house No. 109 in the Calle de Fuencarral, where the porter and neighbours had heard some unusual noises and noticed smoke. On reaching the second-floor he rang the bell and repeatedly asked for admission, in the terms required by the law, before he ordered the door to be forced open. This was not done without some trouble and delay. The officers of the law were horrified at finding the occupants of the apartment lying dead in the alcove by her bed. The deceased lady, a woman of about fifty-five years of age, had been stabbed to death, and the assassins had attempted to burn the body. For this purpose they had heaped clothes over the lower limbs, and had poured petroleum on them, to which they had set light. The fire had charred and disfigured the lower part of the body, but had died out, leaving intact the chest and neck, which bore the marks of stabs. In the room where the crime had been committed nothing had been touched or disturbed. Only a careful investigation showed that bloodstains on the floor and furniture had been washed away. In the course of his search the judge was not a little amazed to discover in the kitchen a servant, the only attendant of the murdered lady, and a bulldog. The latter was evidently labouring under the effects of a strong narcotic. The servant was coolly lying on the floor of the kitchen next to the dog, and at first pretended that she had neither witnessed the crime nor heard the authorities knocking at the door of her mistress. She was put in prison, and has been the cause of great perplexity and embarrassment to the Crown officers.

A SCAPEGRACE SON AND A SINGULAR SERVANT.

The murdered lady was a widow, who had inherited considerable property in Cuba and Spain. She lived in modest style, with only one servant. The only interest she showed was in her son, a young man of twenty-four years of age, her sole heir. He had given her much annoyance and trouble, as he had been leading a wild, dissipated life. He only came to her for money, and they very frequently had attracted the notice of their neighbours by the violent scenes and disputes, in which unfortunately he forgot himself several times so far as to strike his mother. Once he was actually arrested and prosecuted for an assault upon her, and she saved him by refusing all testimony in court. About four months ago he got into trouble, and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, which he was undergoing on the night when the authorities discovered the death of his mother. On the morning after the crime the prison officials communicated to young Varela the news of his mother's death. He did not show

much concern; but he at once gave instructions for her funeral, and ordered that no expense was to be spared for the Church rites, masses, and the interment. When asked whether his suspicions fell on anybody he declared himself at a loss to guess who could have perpetrated such a crime. He said his firm belief was that the servant Higinia Balaguer could only have been an unwilling witness or accomplice of such deed.

THE SERVANT IMPLICATES THE GAOL GOVERNOR.

For a whole fortnight Balaguer nearly drove the judge and the police distracted with her pretended disclosures and confessions incriminating three women and five men who were arrested. The judge had to examine more than one hundred witnesses, whose sworn evidence covered five thousand pages. Higinia made no less than three distinct statements, which she successively retracted or modified. One day she surprised the judge with a statement, in which she charged the son of the murdered lady, the prisoner in the Madrid gaol, with having been the principal actor in this terrible affair. To this statement she has stuck with extraordinary tenacity, giving the minutest and most plausible details of the crime. She declared, when she was brought up and confronted with Varela, that he had assassinated his mother, stolen the bank notes, aud then threatened her with the same fate if she did not accept one thousand pesetas as the first instalment of the price for her silence. She went on to explain how the murderer, who had two accomplices, sent her out to buy the petroleum, with which the body was to be burned by his order after he left the house at 10.45 P.M., a quarter of an hour before the porter closed the front door and put the gas out. When asked why she had not made a clean breast of all this sooner, Higinia declared that she had been induced to make her first statements by the governor of the prison. He wished to conceal the fact that he had let Varela out on July 1, as he had done many a time before. This singular confession of the only witness of the crime immediately led to the arrest of the governor. After five days' detention he was set at liberty, but not allowed to resume his duties pending further investigation.

THE SUBSEQUENT DISCLOSURES.

Day by day public opinion had been clamouring louder and louder for a thorough inquiry into the strange rumours that had gained credence. Most people were beginning to think that grounds did exist for accusing the prison authorities of having permitted the accused man to go out whenever he chose to visit his mother, or to spend a day at the bull-fight and his nights in revelry and riot outside his prison walls. The judge and authorities, the more moderate and respectable organs of the Madrid press, and especially the friends of the Government showed a marked unwillingness to listen to the objections which were raised against the judicial inquiries and investigations by many papers and by popular prejudice. The governor and almost all the prison officials, and many prisoners, were found ready to swear that Varela had not left his cell on the night of July 1, nor on any other occasion. Soon persons were found to swear that they had seen Varela in the Bullring, in cafés, and in the street on different occasions since the day on which he entered the prison to undergo his three months detention for the robbery of a coat in April, 1888. Finally, one of the prison officials determined to try and save himself by turning informer. He saw the judge, and made a clean breast of all he knew. Then it was discovered that, like other prisoners, José Varela went in and out of his Majesty's prison by day and night, in disguise or in plain clothes, by the ordinary door or by a side passage through the political department. He had been out all the afternoon and night of July 1, and had returned to prison at 4 A.M. on July 2 in a state of semi-intoxication, though he had been allowed to have as a companion one of the prison officials. It was also learnt from the official who made this confession that, Varela on returning to the prison half-intoxicated had told one fellow-prisoner who was sweeping his cell, that his mother was badly hurt and not likely to live long. To another person in the prison on the same night he had distinctly declared that he had been mad enough to kill his mother. The judge at once ordered Varela and the other prisoners arrested on suspicion of being his accomplices, to be transferred to cells of close confinement, and he issued warrants for the apprehension of seven warders and officials on duty on July 1 and 2. Last but not least he issued a warrant for the arrest of the ex-governor. He has released all the persons accused by the servant and by the officials of the prison who turned informers after having first sworn a few weeks ago that they knew and had seen absolutely nothing. Higinia Balaguer and two friends of hers, who are charged with having taken an active part in the crime, are kept in prison. Varela has been sent for trial. Last, but not least, the ex-governor of the prison will have to stand on his trial. A formidable array of witnesses will be brought forward. The case is still so obscure and so full of conflicting testimony on all sides that it excites great curiosity. With the exception of *El Dia*, *La Epoca*, *La Correspondencia*, *El Imparcial*, Senor Castelar's paper *El Globo*, and the illustrated weeklies, almost all the other organs of the press have decided to appoint special counsel to watch the case. Never has any criminal case excited such interest and angry discussion. The trial will hardly come off before the autumn. The preliminary report covers 3,500 folio pages, and includes the sworn evidence of 210 witnesses, besides more than 20 examinations of each suspected person.

DEATH OF ANOTHER NOTORIOUS COMMUNIST.

Flotte, the bosom friend of Blanqui, has just followed Citizen Eudès to the tomb. Flotte died last night at Cuers, in the department of the Var, at the age of seventy-six. He was called Le Cuisinier Flotte, and gave the July Monarchy much trouble. In 1839 he was arrested with Barbès and Blanqui, and was imprisoned for nine years. In 1848, on his liberation from prison, he took part in the revolution of June, when the Anarchists killed or wounded eleven generals. Flotte next figured among the most uncompromising foes of the Empire, and was sent to prison for five years. He was then heard of in company with Eudès at La Villette in 1870, and during the Commune he was sent to Versailles in order to negotiate with M. Thiers for the liberation of the hostages in consideration of the release of Blanqui—a negotiation which, as everybody knows, unfortunately fell to the ground. After the Commune Flotte returned to America, where he had been previously, and came back to Paris when the amnesty was proclaimed.

THE RACING BY RAIL.

The competition in railway travelling between London and Edinburgh is becoming keener every week. Determined not to be beaten by their East Coast rivals, the London and North Western yesterday reduced their time to seven hours and forty-five minutes, and their train steamed into the Caledonian station, Edinburgh, actually seven minutes within that time. The East Coast train, owing to the high wind that prevailed, lost twenty-one minutes between York and Berwick, and took eight hours six minutes for the complete journey to Edinburgh. The engine had to be changed at Berwick.

TO-NIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENTS.

THEATRE ROYAL COVENT GARDEN.

SEASON 1888.

FREEMAN THOMAS' SEVENTH ANNUAL SERIES of PROMENADE CONCERTS, THIS EVENING, at 8. Admission One Shilling. Grand Orchestra of 150 Performers and Band of the Coldstream Guards combined. Conductor: Mr. A. Gwyllym Crowe. Smoking Lounges in all parts of the Theatre. This Evening, Vocalists: NIKITA, Mdme. ANTOINETTE STERLING, and Signor NOVARA; Mr. HOWARD REYNOLDS (Solo Cornet).

Prices of admission—Private Boxes from 10s. 6d. to £3 3s.; Grand Circle seats (numbered and reserved), 2s. 6d.; First Circle (numbered and reserved), 2s.; Amphitheatre Stalls, Amphitheatre, and Promenade, One Shilling. Doors open 7.30; commence at 8. Season Tickets (transferable) One Guinea. Box-office open daily 10 to 5. NOTE.—TO-MORROW (Wednesday), FIRST CLASSICAL NIGHT. Vocalists: Mdme. Alwina Valleria, Mr. Orlando Harley, and Signor Foli. Mdme. Frickenhaus (Solo Pianoforte), Mr. Carrodus (Solo Violin). SPECIAL NOTICE.—Re-engagement of Mr. SIMS REEVES who will sing on THURSDAY NEXT. Admission One Shilling. No extra charge.

LYCEUM THEATRE.

(Sole Lessee, Mr. HENRY IRVING.)

TO-NIGHT, at 8.15, and EVERY EVENING (except Saturday).
Mr. RICHARD MANSFIELD as
DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE.
MORNING PERFORMANCE SATURDAY NEXT, at 2.
Box-office (Mr. J. Hurst) now open daily from 10 to 5.

CRITERION THEATRE.

(Lessee and Manager, Mr. CHARLES WYNDHAM.)

BETSY, the celebrated Criterion Comedy, by F. C. BURNAND, THIS EVENING at 9, with the original cast, including Messrs. W. Blakeley, H. Standing, A. Maltby, A. Boucicault, and Geo. Giddens; Mesdames Rose Saker, F. Robertson, E. Terriss, F. Moore, E. Penrose, and Lottie Venne. Preceded by, at 8.15, THE DOWAGER. Messrs. H. Standing, E. Emery, C. Crofton; Mesdames E. Terriss, F. Moore, and Rose Saker. Doors open 7.45. N.B.—Stage and Auditorium lighted entirely by Electricity.

ADELPHI THEATRE.

(A. and S. GATTI, Sole Proprietors and Managers.)

THIS EVENING, at Eight, THE UNION JACK. Mr. William Terriss; Messrs. C. Cartwright, J. D. Beveridge, J. L. Shine, L. Cautley, D. Somers, H. Russell, H. Halley, &c.; Miss Millward; Mesdames Helen Forsyth, O. Nethersole, D. Drummond, E. Bufton, and Clara Jecks. At 7.15. THE REFUGEES. Mr. D. Somers, Miss Agnes Miller, &c.

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE.

(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. THOMAS THORNE.)

JOSEPH'S SWEETHEART. 150th Time. Great success. TO-NIGHT, at 8.30, a New Comedy in Five Acts, by ROBERT BUCHANAN, entitled JOSEPH'S SWEETHEART. Preceded, at 7.45, by a new One Act Play, entitled THE BROTHERS, by H. BYATT. Messrs. W. Rignold, C. Maude, J. S. Blythe, S. Buist, F. Gillmore, F. Grove, J. Wheatman, and Fred Thorne; Mesdames G. Homfrey, Arnold, McNeill, Harrison, Maunders, and Kate Rorke. Box-office open 10 till 6.30.

GAIETY THEATRE.

Miss SOPHIE EYRE.—Special Season under her direction.

EVERY EVENING at 8.45, the new Four-Act Play MARINA, by JOHN COLEMAN. Marina, Miss Eyre; other characters by Misses Carlotta Leclercq, Enid Leslie, Lucy Buckstone; Messrs. E. D. Ward, Herbert Waring, Julian Cross, Fred. Terry, H. Maxwell, James East, Glenn Wynn, &c. Preceded at 8 by POLLY'S VENTURE. Box-office open 10 till 6 daily. "SHE" is in active preparation. Acting Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Eugene C. Stafford; Manager, Mr. John Cobbe.

TERRY'S THEATRE.

(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. EDWARD TERRY.)

(Acting Manager, Mr. H. T. BRICKWELL.)

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TO-NIGHT, at 8.30, A. W. PINERO's New Three Act Domestic Drama, SWEET LAVENDER. 150th Time. Messrs. Edward Terry, Alfred Bishop, Brandon Thomas, T. C. Valentine, Bernard Gould, F. Kerr, Sant Matthews; Mesdames M. A. Victor, Carlotta Addison, Maude Millett, and Norreys. Doors open at 8. Carriages 11. MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30. Seats at the Libraries and Box-office, open from 10 to 5. Telephone 2,702.

GLOBE THEATRE.

(Lessees and Managers, Mr. EDGAR BRUCE and Miss EDITH WOODWORTH.)

THIS EVENING, at 8.45, BOOTLES' BABY. 86th Time. Messrs. Charles Sugden, Edmund Maurice, C. W. Garthorne, Forbes Dawson, Gilbert Farquhar, C. Kent, and Charles Collette; Mesdames Webster, Henrietta Lindley, Rose Evelyn, Maud Merrill, Minnie Terry. At 7.45, TRUE COLOURS. Messrs. Forbes Dawson, A. J. Byde; Mesdames Gifford and Florence Grant.

PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.

(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. HORACE SEDGER.)

EVERY EVENING, at 7.35, WARRANTED BURGLAR PROOF.
At 8.30, punctually, DOROTHY. (690th Performance.)
Mesdames Effie Chapuy, Florence Perry, Harriet Coveney, E. Weston, and Amy Augarde; Messrs. Ben Davies, Furneaux Cook, Arthur Williams, J. Le Hay, Edward Griffin, and C. Hayden Coffin. Musical Director, M. Ivan Caryll. Doors open 7.30. Box-office open from 10 till 5.
MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30.

ITALIAN EXHIBITION.

In Concert Hall and Theatre, FRATELLI PRANDI's MARIONETTES, "AMOR" and "THE LIVING SKELETON," at 3 and 7.45 P.M. The NEAPOLITAN MANDOLINISTS at 4.30 and 9 P.M.

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GRAND FAIRY BALLET, "A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM," arranged and produced under direction of Madame KATTI LANNER and Mr. OSCAR BARRETT, THIS and EVERY EVENING. Open-air if fine, Centre Transept if Wet. The *Times* says:—"It ought to attract the public in shoals. It is the most practical realization of the beauties of the 'Midsummer Night's Dream' ever attempted." Admission daily, 1s.

SAVOY.—Proprietor and Manager, R. D'OYLY CARTE.—THIS EVENING, at 8.30, THE MIKADO, Japanese Opera. By W. S. GILBERT and ARTHUR SULLIVAN. At 7.30, MRS. JARRAMIE'S GENIE. Box-office open from 9 A.M. till 11 P.M.

SAVOY.—THE MIKADO.—THIS and EVERY EVENING, at 8.30, and SATURDAY AFTERNOON, at 2.30, until further notice. Messrs. R. Barrington, R. Temple, J. Wilkinson, R. Cummings, and J. G. Robertson; Mesdames G. Ulmar, M. Christo, A. Cole, and S. Grey.

SAVOY.—THE MIKADO.

COMEDY THEATRE (Last Seven Nights for the present).—At 9, a Farcical Comedy, in Three Acts, entitled THE ARABIAN NIGHTS, by SYDNEY GRUNDY. Mr. C. H. Hawtrey, Mr. Wilfred Draycott, Mr. W. Wyes, and Mr. W. S. Penley; Miss Vane Featherston, Miss Blanche Wolseley, Miss Agnes Miller, Miss Gertrude Goetze, Miss Carlotta Zerbini. Box-office open 10 to 5. At 8.100'clock, SUNSET, by JEROME K. JEROME.—Business Manager, Mr. E. F. BRADLEY.

THE ARABIAN NIGHTS (Last Seven Nights for the present).—On WEDNESDAY, August 22, will be produced UNCLES AND AUNTS.—COMEDY THEATRE.

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A LITERARY COINCIDENCE.

MR. RIDER HAGGARD AND THE TATTOOED WILL.

Mr. F. A. Duneka, writing in the *New York World*, says that Mr. Haggard has conveyed the groundwork of his last story, "Mr. Meeson's Will," from the French. "The central idea," says Mr. Duneka, "and in fact the only idea in it, tells of a girl who allowed a will to be tattooed on her shoulder. The entire plot is hung upon this incident. The idea was a daring one, and ought to sell the book. It did sell the book, but the idea belonged to another writer. The writer from whom Mr. Haggard borrowed the tattooing idea," continues Mr. Duneka, "is M. Charles Aubert, and his book is a collection of short stories called 'Les Nouvelles Amoureuses,' published by Marpon et Flammarion, Paris, 1886. The points of similarity are so common, so obvious, as to leave no room for doubt. M. Aubert's heroine has her birthright tattooed on her back, which her lover deciphers, proving her to be rich and afterwards marrying her—word for word and act for act, like Mr. Haggard's people. The niceties of our English tongue will not permit of long extracts from the French, but I have jotted down some of the points of similarity as they come to mind:—

First—Mr. Haggard's heroine has an important will tattooed on her white shoulder.
M. Aubert's heroine has the important fact of her birthright, equivalent to a will, tattooed on her back.

Second—Mr. Haggard's heroine makes a pretty scene where she bares her shoulder and shows the indelible will privately to her lover.
M. Aubert's heroine makes an equally confusing scene when she privately exhibits her tattooed birthright to her lover.

Third—Mr. Haggard's heroine has a lawsuit over the will, and the tattooed shoulder is inspected in open court.
M. Aubert's heroine has much trouble in the deciphering of her tattooed mystery, and the wise men of her village inspect the strange message.

Fourth—Mr. Haggard's hero helps to win the lawsuit, and as a reward marries the heroine.
M. Aubert's hero discovers the tattooed cryptogram, and as a reward marries the heroine.

Fifth—In both cases a large sum of money is at stake, and is gained through the tattooed marks.

The title of M. Aubert's story is "Le Cas de Mademoiselle Luzanne."

AT THE GLASGOW EXHIBITION.

The presence in the Bishop's Castle at the Glasgow Exhibition of a large number of objects picked up on various sites of Scotch battle-fields, some of them lent by Sir Noel Paton, recalls rather a good story told about that distinguished artist's father, who was a pattern designer for one of the large linen works in Dunfermline. He was also a sagacious antiquary, and, like many of his class, occasionally became the mark of the low calling of those fabricators of specimens whose cupidity and ignorance are greater than their cunning. One of these, unable himself to make anything that required much manual skill, had vainly tried his hand on Mr. Paton with a few oddments, whose antiquity did not go very far beyond the date of his own birth. Undiscouraged by successive rejections, the stupid creature determined to have a profit somehow out of the old man's enthusiasm, and brought to him one day a curious rifle, rusted all over in a fashion that would not have discredited the hoop of a rain-water barrel. On presenting the trophy, his expected customer smilingly asked him where he got it. "On the field of Bannockburn," was the reply. But the words were no sooner uttered than a look of grave trouble settled on the antiquary's face, as, with bowed head, he solemnly muttered, "You've done me this time." It is to be hoped that no anachronism of a like kind could be connected with the beautiful little piece of carved work called "Queen Mary's Aumril," which the Queen's painter for Scotland has also lent to the same exhibition, and which was "discovered" in a labourer's cottage on the shores of Lochleven. It seems a curious thing that these valuable relics should gravitate so far down; but such "finds" are not uncommon.

THE MOST POPULAR NOVELIST OF AMERICA.

The *Critic* publishes the following in its obituary notice of the prolific and popular novelist whom Matthew Arnold referred to as "a native author called Roe," and who died suddenly the other day:—

Mr. Roe was born in New Windsor, New York, just fifty years ago on the 7th of last March. He spent the days of his boyhood wandering along the banks of the Hudson—as so many of his heroes and heroines have since done in his books. When he was twenty years old he entered Williams College; and after he was graduated, he studied a year at the Auburn Theological Seminary, and came out of it, like his namesake, a divine. Early in the war he was made chaplain of the 2nd N.Y. Volunteers (the "Harris Light Cavalry"), and left the field of action only when the last gun was fired. He was present when Colonel Ulric Dahlgren was killed in his raid upon Richmond, and himself had a narrow escape in the fight on the banks of the James River. He was afterwards appointed by Lincoln as Hospital Chaplain at Fortress Monroe. When the war was over he was called to the pulpit of the Presbyterian Church at Highland Falls, on the Hudson, below West Point, and in 1874 removed to Cornwall (also on the Hudson), where he died. Before this, however, Mr. Roe had found out the power of his pen, and "Barriers Burned away" and "The Opening of a Chestnut Burr" had been given to the world. The first of these—the author's maiden effort—met with an almost unprecedented success.

Mr. Roe had visited Chicago immediately after the fire, and while standing among its ruins the plot of the book that was to make him famous took shape in his mind. Its title was suggested by the smoking embers of the city. From the moment the book appeared, the author's position was assured, and every subsequent year of his life added a new work to his list. None of his later novels ever leaped up in circulation to the 69,000 volumes sold of "Barriers Burned Away," but some idea of his popularity may be gained by the fact that none of them fell below 24,000. These figures relate to the cloth-bound editions: but of the most popular of his stories paper-covered editions also of 100,000 each were put upon the market. Besides preaching and writing novels Mr. Roe cultivated roses and strawberries with great success. At his home in Cornwall, surrounded by his family and his flowers, he has done most of his work: and here it was that, only the other day, he wrote *finis* to his last novel, "Miss Lou," now appearing in the somewhat belated *Cosmopolitan*.

His publishers estimate the total sale of his works to date at 750,000 copies, and compute that a million and a half people have read one or more of them. This is a tremendous power for good or evil for any one man to wield. Praise to the man now dead that, in so far as he knew, he used it only for the good. Mr. Roe's published works are as follows:—"Barriers Burned Away" (1873), of which 69,000 cloth-covered copies were sold; "What Can She Do?" (1873), 44,000; "Play and Profit in the Garden" (1873); "Opening of a Chestnut Burr" (1874), 66,000; "Near to Nature's Heart" (1875), 53,000; "From Jest to Earnest" (1876) 61.000; "A Knight of the Nineteenth Century" (1877), 54,000; "A Face Illumined" (1878), 52,000; "A Day of Fate" (1880), 50,000; "Without a Home" (1881), 60,000; "A Young Girl's Wooing" (1884), 42,000; "His Sombre Rivals" (1884), 47,000; "An Original Belle" (1885), 35,000; "Nature's Serial Story" (1884), 24,000; "He Fell in Love with his Wife" (1886), 38,000; "The Earth Trembled" (1887); Driven Back to Eden" (1885), 30,000; "Found Yet Lost" (1888), and two pomological works—on the "Culture of Small Fruits" (1876) and "Success with Small Fruits" (1880).

THE PROTECTION OF SARAWAK.

The following are the terms of the agreement which has been executed by the Rajah of Sarawak, and which now awaits Lord Salisbury's signature:—

Whereas Charles Brooke, Esq., Rajah and lawful Ruler of the State of Sarawak, in the Island of Borneo, has represented to her Majesty's Government the desire of that State to be placed under the protection of her Majesty the Queen, under the conditions hereinafter mentioned; it is hereby agreed and declared as follows:—(1) The State of Sarawak shall continue to be governed and administered by the said Rajah Brooke and his successors as an independent State under the protection of Great Britain; but such protection shall confer no right on her Majesty's Government to interfere with the internal administration of that State further than is herein provided; (2) in case any question should hereafter arise respecting the right of succession to the present or any future Ruler of Sarawak, such question shall be referred to her Majesty's Government for decision; (3) The relations between the State of Sarawak and all foreign States, including the States of Brunei and North Borneo, shall be conducted by her Majesty's Government, or in accordance with its directions; and if any difference should arise between the Government of Sarawak and that of any other State, the Government of Sarawak agrees to abide by the decision of her Majesty's Government, and to take all necessary measures to give effect thereto. (4) Her Majesty's Government shall have the right to establish British Consular officers in any part of the State of Sarawak, who shall receive exequaturs in the name of the Government of Sarawak. They shall enjoy whatever privileges are usually granted to Consular officers, and shall be entitled to hoist the British flag over their residences and public offices. (5) British subjects, commerce, and shipping shall enjoy the same rights, privileges, and advantages as the subjects, commerce, and shipping of the most favoured nation, as well as any other rights, privileges, and advantages which may be enjoyed by the subjects, commerce, and shipping of the State of Sarawak. (6) No cession or other alienation of any part of the territory of the State of Sarawak shall be made by the Rajah or his successors to any foreign State, or the subjects or citizens thereof, without the consent of her Majesty's Government; but this restriction shall not apply to ordinary grants or leases of lands or houses to private individuals for purposes of residence, agriculture, commerce, or other business.

PORTRAITS OF NOVELISTS.

From recent numbers of the *Critic* we take the following descriptions:—

MRS. HUMPHRY WARD.

She is a wonderfully charming person, slight, and most graceful in figure and movement, and with such a suggestion in her brilliant face of her uncle, Mr. Matthew Arnold, that I could easily have believed her his daughter. Her conversation is most suggestive and interesting, as one might well expect from the author of "Robert Elsmere" and the able translator of Amiel's "Journal Intime." She lives in Russell-square, not far from the British Museum, in a house full of books and flowers and pictures, and she has the good fortune to be the wife of a man whose scholarly tastes and literary achievement must ensure the closest sympathy between them of thought and of aim.

MR. MARION CRAWFORD.

Current Literature says of Marion Crawford that he has black hair, blue eyes, a good figure, and was a great *belle* before his marriage. One wonders if he has become a beau since that event.

MR. HALL CAINE.

Hall Caine, the author of "The Shadow of a Crime," "The Deemster," which has been dramatized for Wilson Barrett, and several other noteworthy books, is a rather remarkable-looking person. He is slight and graceful. He has dark red hair and beard, and eyes which one would properly call brown, but which have in them such a glow of tawny red that they seem to have been designed as a match for his hair. He has a gentle and attractive manner, and a grave sincerity of speech that wins one's faith. He is a good talker and a good listener also.

MR. JAMES PAYN.

Mr. James Payn is described as a square-headed, broad-browed, spectacled man, more like a prosperous physician than an author. He is now almost sixty years old.

RESTELL'S TRADE SALE of WINES and SPIRITS in Bond and Duty Paid for FRIDAY, 17th August.

MESSRS. W. and T. RESTELL, Sworn Brokers, of 29, Mark-lane, E.C., will SELL by PUBLIC AUCTION, at the LONDON COMMERCIAL SALE ROOMS, Mincing-lane, on FRIDAY, the 17th August, 1888, commencing at one o'clock precisely, the following WINES and SPIRITS:—In Bond—24 pipes, 19 hhds., 33 qr. casks Port and Sherry, including shipments of Cockburn, Croft, Fonseca, and M. M. Mora; also the Vardosa brand, 30 pipes, 16 hhds. 10 qr. casks Spanish Red, 31 hhds. 54 qr. casks Brandy, Hennessy's, Otard's, the Company's, Denis Mounie's, Vine Growers', Planat's, &c., including the vintages 1875, 1877, 1878, 1880, and 1884; 22 puns. Rum, including Wedderburn's I.A.W. (old landed); 22 hhds. 18 qr.-casks Irish Whisky, of George Roe's 1879 bonding, and DWD Co.'s 1882 bonding; and a few casks of Scotch Whisky, &c.; 48 hhds. Greek Wine. Duty paid. 482 dozens Port, G. G. Sandeman's vintages 1865, 1870, and 1881, Dow's 1878, Martinez 1863 and 1874, Rebello Valente's 1863 and 1877, and Smith's 1881. 180 dozens Sherry, shipped by Peter Domecq, Gonzalez, Cosens, Garvey, and Haurie; 430 dozens Claret, including Château Beychevelle, Château Haut Brion, Château Lafite, Château Desmirail Margaux, Château Lagrange, &c.; 300 dozens Still Hock, Erbach, Vintage 1884, shipped by J. M. Sturm; 120 dozens Champagne, Pommery's Brut, 1880, and Extra Sec 1880-81, and Louis Roederer's 1880; also a few lots Whisky, Brandy, Marsala, &c.—Catalogues and further particulars of W. and T. RESTELL, Auctioneers and Wine and Spirit Valuers, 29, Mark-lane, E.C.

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